



UNIVERSITY OF
JAFFNA

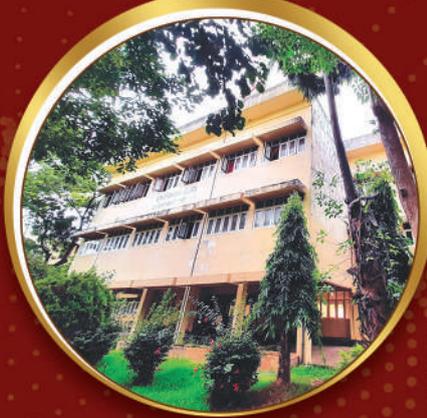
Faculty of Science
Alumni Association
FoSAA



UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Golden Jubilee Magazine - 2024

Chemistry Block



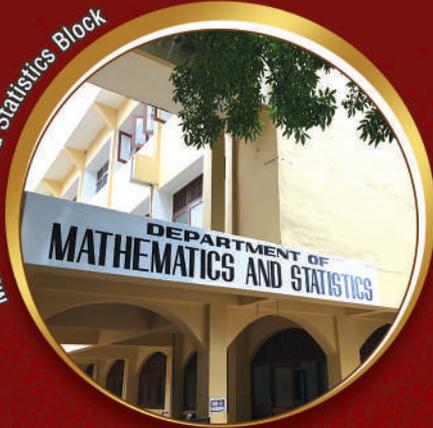
Natural Science Block 2



Natural Science Block 1



Mathematics and Statistics Block



Physics Block



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UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Golden Jubilee Magazine - 2024

Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA)

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Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Professor S. Srisatkunarajah

Vice-Chancellor, University of Jaffna
6th Batch of the Faculty of Science

Time is the greatest influence of nature on human beings. Time brings opportunities to evolve and grow. Fifty years ago, the cherished birth of University of Jaffna, brought the opportunity for the people of the region and the nation to pursue their academic aspirations, fulfilling their potential and ethos while fostering and promoting the language and culture. Fifty years of commendable academic pursuit of the University of Jaffna originated with the birth of Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Arts. We are grateful to the founders of these two faculties whose eminence as full-fledged academia of the nation and their determination to institute the quality faculties of higher learning which paved the way to receive many accolades.

Despite the many challenges faced by the Faculty of Science due to the unsettled conditions since the inception that prevailed in the region for more than three decades and severe shortage of resources, the faculty has been offering transformative learning opportunities for the undergraduates to master the subject areas of Physical and Biological sciences. Our faculty alumni are making their mark across the globe excelling in various fields. Their commendable achievements serve as a testimony to the reputation of the faculty and the University of Jaffna is proud of it. The fundamental cause of this incredible achievement of the Faculty of Science is the rigorous and stimulating academic culture and tradition developed and maintained jointly by its staff and students with passion and dedication.

“Service brings happiness”; serving one’s Alma Mater is an immensely rejoicing and rewarding experience. FoSAA connects “scattered dots” of the alumni of the faculty and brings the old students under one umbrella, facilitating a platform for former

students to come together, share the challenges faced by the faculty and offer assistance wherever possible. It is also vital to review and reflect on the past from time to time, to highlight landmark events such as this one today and celebrate the success and our achievements.

And now to the future, we are slowly approaching the second quarter of the 21st century in which knowledge will be the most important power that will influence, support and dominate all aspects of life and environment. Especially with the explosion of information technology growth, Big Data analytics, deep learning, data mining, artificial intelligence and internet of things will pervade the planning and management of scientific, economic, educational, engineering and agricultural activities and make them SMART. In this respect, digital inclusion of the community is inevitable. Our FoSAA might play a crucial role in this noble endeavour. Its members possess a variety of expertise in different fields of knowledge. They also have diverse skills and resources at their disposal.

I want to emphasise the three important attributes to achieve noble progression: charitable attitude, deep knowledge and a willingness to sacrifice. Faculty of Science is proud of FoSAA at its resolve to celebrate today the Golden Jubilee of the Faculty of Science on a grand scale, to continue to support the noble progression of the faculty with generous funding, expertise of state of the art knowledge and devotion of time and energy.

My greetings and best wishes to FoSAA for celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the faculty and for providing a rare opportunity to its members of various batches to reach-out, reminisce and rejoice together.

All glories to the Almighty.



Message from the Dean/Faculty of Science

Professor P. Ravirajan
 Dean, Faculty of Science
 University of Jaffna
 16th Batch of Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science takes immense pride in being one of the most prestigious and oldest science faculties in the country, renowned for producing highly competent graduates and postgraduates. Established on October 25, 1974, the faculty has consistently upheld its commitment to nurturing intellectually and professionally adept science graduates, perfectly aligned with its overarching vision. As the faculty approaches the Golden Jubilee on October 25, 2024, it reflects with pride on its remarkable five-decade journey and eagerly anticipates the carefully planned path ahead. This milestone offers a valuable opportunity to celebrate past achievements and envision a future filled with confidence and promise.

It is with great pleasure I extend my heartfelt best wishes to the Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA) on this momentous occasion in the Golden Jubilee year of the Faculty of Science and the University of Jaffna. This landmark celebration of the faculty, marking fifty years of excellence in education, research, and community outreach, is a testament to the resilience, dedication, and commitment of the students, staff, and alumni who have contributed to the growth and success of our institution. It is particularly gratifying to note that the association cherishes the memories of their teachers and has gathered a significant collection of batch photos, creating a valuable treasure for the faculty. Additionally, I commend FoSAA for taking the lead in gathering the success stories of our distinguished alumni, making them available to inspire our students.

The Golden Jubilee is more than just a celebration; it is a reflection of the many milestones achieved by the Faculty of Science over the past fifty years. From pioneering research to the development of cutting-edge academic programmes, the Faculty of Science has consistently set new standards. Our graduates have gone on to become leaders in academia, industry, and

public service, making significant contributions to the betterment of society. This is a moment to honour the legacy of those who have come before us and to celebrate the achievements that have positioned the Faculty of Science as a beacon of scientific knowledge in the country.

This Golden Jubilee celebration holds special significance as it marks the first grand event of its kind organised by FoSAA at the University of Jaffna. The success of this event is a direct result of the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of our alumni and staff members. Their tireless efforts in planning, organising, and holding this celebration have created a platform for reconnecting with old friends, cherishing memories, and forging new relationships that will strengthen our bonds.

As we gather to commemorate this golden milestone, it is also an opportunity to reflect on the critical role of the alumni in the future of the Faculty of Science. The contributions of our alumni have always been integral to the faculty's success, and their continued support is vital as we look toward the future. Whether through mentorship, research collaborations, or financial contributions, there are countless ways in which the alumni can contribute to the ongoing development and success of the Faculty of Science.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to FoSAA for their unwavering commitment to the faculty and for organising this historic celebration. As we celebrate the Golden Jubilee, let us also look forward to a future filled with abundant possibilities, where the Faculty of Science will continue to excel with the steadfast support of its alumni.

I wish you all a memorable and joyous Golden Jubilee celebration.



விஞ்ஞானபீட பழைய மாணவர்கள் சங்கத் தலைவரின் எண்ணத்திலிருந்து . . .

திரு. வ. சி. குணசீலன்

தலைவர், விஞ்ஞானபீட பழைய மாணவர்கள் சங்கம்

முன்னாள் சிரேஷ்ட விரிவுரையாளர், கோப்பாய் ஆசிரிய கலாசாலை
9வது அணி, விஞ்ஞானபீடம்.

எங்கள் அத்தனை உயர்வுக்கும் அடித்தளமான யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழக விஞ்ஞானபீடம் இவ்வாண்டு தன் ஐம்பதாவது ஆண்டைக் காண்கின்றது. இலங்கையின் மதிப்புமிக்க உயர்கல்வி நிறுவனங்களுள் ஒன்றாகத் திகழும் எமது விஞ்ஞானபீடம் இந்த ஐம்பது ஆண்டுகளுக்குள் சாதித்தவை ஏராளம். இங்கிருந்து வெளியேறிய பலர் உலகத்தின் பல பாகங்களிலும் தங்கள் ஆற்றலினால் உயர்ந்து விளங்குகின்றார்கள். நீண்ட கல்விப் பாரம்பரியச் செழுமையைக் கொண்ட எமது பீடத்தின் பொன்விழா என்பது வேரினைப் போற்றி விழுதுகள் எடுக்கும் விழாவாகும்.

பல ஆண்டுகளுக்குப் பின்னர் பழைய மாணவர்கள் ஒன்றாகக் கூடுகின்ற வாய்ப்புக் கிடைத்திருக்கின்றது. இது கடந்தகால நினைவுகளை மீட்டுவதற்கு மட்டுமல்ல எதிர்காலத் திட்டங்களை வகுப்பதற்குரிய களமாகவும் அமைகின்றது. அடுத்து வரும் ஆண்டுகளில் எமது பீடத்தினதும் அங்கு கல்வி கற்கும் எமது இளைய சகோதரர்களினதும் நலன்கள் குறித்து நாம் ஆற்ற வேண்டிய பணிகள் எவை என்பதை அடையாளம் காண்பதற்கு இந்த பொன்விழா நிகழ்வுகள் நல்ல தொடக்கமாக அமைய வேண்டும் என்பதே எமதனை வரினதும் எதிர்பார்ப்பாகும்.

இலங்கையின் பொருளாதாரப் போக்குகளின் அடிப்படையில் எதிர்வரும் காலங்களில் பல்கலைக் கழகங்களினதும் அங்கு கல்விகற்கும் மாணவர்களினதும் தேவைகள் முழுமையையும் அரசாங்க நிதியுதவியுடன் நிறைவேற்றுவது என்பது சவாலாகியுள்ளது. இவ்வேளையில் எமது சமூகத்தின் பங்களிப்பும் எமது பீடத்துக்கு மிகவும் தேவைப்படுகின்றது. இத்தகைய சூழலில் நடைபெறும் எங்கள் விஞ்ஞான பீடத்தின் பொன்விழா அதற்கான வாயில்களைத் திறக்கும் எனும் நம்பிக்கை எமக்குண்டு.

எமது பீடத்தினதும் அங்கு கல்விபயிலும் மாணவர்களினதும் நலன்கருதி பல்வேறுபட்ட பங்களிப்புகள் தனிப்பட்ட முறையிலும் சில குறிப்பிட்ட அமைப்புகள் வழியாகவும் வழங்கப்பட்டுவருகின்றமை

மகிழ்ச்சிக் குரியது. இவ்வாறான உதவியெய்யும் மனப்பாங்கினைப் பலர் கொண்டிருந்தபோதிலும் அதனை நிறைவேற்றுவதற்கான நிறுவனமயப்பட்ட வழிவகைகளுக்காக அவர்கள் காத்திருக்கலாம். இச் சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் பொன்விழா நிகழ்வுகளுடன் முனைப்புப் பெறும் எமது விஞ்ஞானபீட பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம் இத்தகைய உதவிகளை ஒருங்கிணைக்கும் பாலமாக செயற்படமுடியுமென எண்ணுகின்றோம்.

எமது ஒளிமயமான எதிர்காலத்துக்காக அர்ப்பணிப்புடன் பணியாற்றிய பெருமைமிகு பேராசிரியர்கள், பீடாதிபதிகள், விரிவுரையாளர்கள் மற்றும் கல்விசாரா உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் அனைவரினதும் சேவைகளின் விளைதிறனை மீட்டிப் பார்க்கும் வாய்ப்பை எமது பீடத்தின் 'போற்றிடும் பொன்னகவைத் திருநாள்' வழங்கியுள்ளது. பழைய நினைவுகளில் தோய்ந்து புதிய சிந்தனைகளை உருவாக்க இது வழிசெய்யும். நாம் கல்வி கற்ற காலத்துடன் ஒப்பிடுகையில் தற்போது ஆய்வுகூட வசதிகள், விரிவுரை மண்டபங்கள் என்றவாறு கல்விசார் வசதிகள் உலகத்தரம் வாய்ந்த பல்கலைக்கழகங்களுக்கு ஓரளவுக்கேனும் ஈடுகொடுக்கும் வகையில் அதிகரித்துள்ளமையால் எமது விஞ்ஞானபீடத்தின் தனித்துவம் பல மடங்கு உயர்ந்துள்ளது. இதனை நமது மாணவர் சமூகம் முழுமையாகப் பயன்கொள்ளத்தக்க விதத்தில் அவர்களை வழிப்படுத்தவேண்டிய பெரும் பொறுப்பு பழைய மாணவர்களாகிய எம் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் உரியதாகும்.

எமது ஞானத்தாயான விஞ்ஞானபீடத்தின் பெருமைக்கு மேலும் சிறப்புச் செய்யும் வகையில் பொன்விழா நிகழ்வுகளைத் திறம்பட ஒழுங்கமைக்கக் கைகோர்த்த அனைவருக்கும் எனது நன்றிகள். நாளுக்கு நாள் வேகம் பெறும் விஞ்ஞான தொழில்நுட்ப சவால்களுக்கு ஈடுகொடுக்கத்தக்க வகையில் எமது விஞ்ஞானபீடம் உயர்வளர்ச்சி பெற்று என்றும் எம் எதிர்காலத்தலைமுறையின் அறிவுப்பசி போக்கப் பெரும் துணைசெய்ய வேண்டி இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கின்றேன்.



Message from the Secretary of FoSAA

Dr. Gita Sathianathan

Secretary of FoSAA

Former Teaching Assistant Professor at the Pennsylvania State University,
& Retired as a Senior Lecturer from the California State University, Fullerton, California.

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Faculty of Science,

As we gather to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Faculty of Science, it is with immense pride and joy that I extend my warmest greetings to each of you. In 1974, a vision was born - a vision to create a community that fosters lifelong learning, a vision that brings job opportunities in scientific and technical fields, a vision that brings prosperity and growth to our close-knit community. Today we have gathered here from all around the globe to reflect on the remarkable progress of the Alumni and Faculty; a testament to the resilience, success and achievements of the Faculty of Science throughout the tumultuous 50 years since its inception.

This milestone event is a celebration of our past and a pledge to the enduring spirit of our alumni community. During the past 50 years, we have witnessed countless achievements, both individually and collectively from the alumni in Sri Lanka and abroad. From our lecture halls to the various corners of the globe, our alumni have made amazing contributions to science, society, and humanity, excelling in diverse fields and embodying the values instilled in us by our professors, mentors, staff and administrators.

The many years of war and strife have kindled our determination and resolve to seek opportunities globally and strive hard to achieve success, overcoming profoundly adverse circumstances. The sacrifice, unwavering commitment and dedication of our professors, lecturers and staff are forever etched in our hearts and minds as they silently impel us from within to put forth our best efforts.

Let us also look forward to the future, as we look back on the memories that have shaped our trajectories. The challenges we face today require us to

come together, to unite, to support one another, and to continue the legacy of excellence that has been handed down by the founders of the Faculty of Science. I urge each of you to join FoSAA and contribute actively to the faculty's initiatives, share your success stories, and inspire the next generation of students to do even better. This Golden Jubilee is a celebration of our shared history, our achievements, and our dreams and aspirations. It is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, forge new relationships, and strengthen the bonds that unite us.

As we celebrate this milestone, we ask alumni to support the efforts of the faculty and students. We ask for your help in gaining global recognition for the Faculty of Science and the University of Jaffna. Please initiate research collaborations with faculty members, enable student placement for graduate programmes abroad, create opportunities for faculty members to attend and host conferences, create mentorship programs for students and new faculty members and provide financial support for accreditation by RSB, RSC or other organizations. We ask for your financial support to the departments to obtain lab equipment and to donate refurbished or new instruments to facilitate research and develop postgraduate programmes.

We appreciate your support however small or large towards the growth, development and advancement of the Faculty of Science.

Thank you for your generous donations. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, as alumni of the Faculty of Science at the University of Jaffna, let us continue to build a vibrant and supportive intellectual community. One that reflects the values and spirit of all those who have paved the way for us through their selfless efforts, heroic sacrifice, diligent hard work and unwavering commitment.



விஞ்ஞானபீடத்தின் பொன்விழாவை ஏன் கொண்டாட வேண்டும்?

இ. சர்வேஸ்வரா

உயிரியல் விஞ்ஞானம் (30வது அணி)

விஞ்ஞானபீடம், யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

ஈழத்தமிழர்களின் அடையாளமாகத் திகழும் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் இவ்வருடம் 2024ஆம் ஆண்டு தனது ஐம்பதாவது ஆண்டைப் பூர்த்தி செய்கின்றது. பல்கலைக்கழகத்துடன் இணைந்து சமாந்தரமாக ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட விஞ்ஞானபீடமும் மனிதப் பண்பியல் பீடம் என ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டுப் பின்னர் கலைப்பீடம் என பெயர் மாற்றம் பெற்ற பீடமும் பொன்விழா ஆண்டை எட்டியுள்ளன. கடந்து வந்த ஐம்பது ஆண்டுகளில் பல்கலைக்கழகம், விஞ்ஞான பீடம், கலைப்பீடம் என்பன தாண்டிய பயணம் சாதாரணமானது அல்ல. இலங்கையின் ஏனைய அரசாங்கப் பல்கலைக்கழகங்களுக்கு வாய்த்த வாய்ப்புகள் போல யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்துக்கு வாய்த்ததில்லை. அதுபோன்றே யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் சந்தித்த சவால்களைப் போல ஏனைய பல்கலைக்கழகங்கள் சந்தித்ததும் இல்லை. இருந்தும் வாய்ப்புகளின் பற்றாக்குறை மற்றும் சவால்களின் செறிவு என்பவற்றுக்கு இடையில் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகமும் அதனோடு இணைந்த பீடங்களும் சாதித்தவை ஏராளம். குறிப்பாக பெரு இடப்பெயர்வுகள் மற்றும் போர்க்கால அனர்த்தங்கள் நிகழ்ந்த போது எந்தவொரு கட்டத்திலும் பல்கலைக்கழகம் மூடப்படவில்லை. குறிப்பாக 1974ஆம் ஆண்டுக்குப் பின்னர் உயர்தரப்பரீட்சை எழுதிய அத்தனை அணியினருக்கும் பல்கலைக்கழக கல்வியைத் தொடரும் வாய்ப்பு யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் கிட்டியது.

1974ஆம் ஆண்டு ஜனவரியில் நடைபெற்ற உலகத் தமிழாராய்ச்சி மாநாடும் அதன் பின்னரான அனர்த்தங்களும் ஈழத்தமிழர்கள் மத்தியில் அதிர்வுகளை ஏற்படுத்தியிருந்த சூழலில் 1974ஆம் ஆண்டு ஜூலை மாதம் இலங்கைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் வளாகமாக யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்துக்கான முதல் அடி எடுக்கப்படுகின்றது. பல்கலைக்கழகம் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட அதே காலப்பகுதியில் சமாந்தரமாக ஈழத்தமிழர்களின் இனவிடுதலைப் போரட்ட நகர்வுகளும் ஆரம்பிக்கத் தொடங்கின. இன

விடுதலைப் போரும் பல்கலைக்கழகமும் ஒன்றுடன் ஒன்று பிணைந்து நகர்ந்தமையால் இரண்டினது நகர்வுகளினதும் வீச்சும் வீழ்ச்சியும் தவிர்க்க முடியாதபடி ஒன்றின் தாக்கம் மற்றொன்றின் மீதும் இணைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தன. இதனால் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகமும் அதன் பீடங்களும் சந்தித்த இழப்புகள் ஏராளமானவை. அநியாயமான உயிர் இழப்புகள், பெருமளவிலான சொத்து இழப்புகள், புலமையாளர்களின் புலப்பெயர்வு, இரட்டை நிர்வாக சமூகக்குள் தீர்க்கமான தீர்மானங்களை எடுக்க முடியாத பலவீனம், மாணவர் பல்வகைமையில் குறைபாடுகள், வளப்பற்றாக்குறை என ஒரு வளரவேண்டிய பல்கலைக்கழகம் தன் பேரேழுச்சிக்காலத்தில் சந்திக்கக்கூடாத சவால்கள் அனைத்தையும் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் சந்தித்தது. இருந்தும் அது நிமிர்வுடன் இருந்தது. இந்த அதிசயம் பெரிது. யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தினதும் விஞ்ஞான பீடத்தினதும் பொன்விழா ஆண்டில் நாம் இப்போது நிற்கின்றோம். இந்த ஐம்பது ஆண்டில் ஏறக்குறைய 35 வருடங்கள் போரும் கல்வியுமாக கடந்த வருடங்கள். பின்னரான 15 வருடங்கள் போருக்குப் பின்னான களமும் கல்வியும் என நகர்ந்தவை. 2009 ஆம் ஆண்டு மே மாதம் நடைபெற்ற போரில் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட அங்கவீனமுற்ற உளத்தாக்கத்துக்குள்ளான தலைமுறையின் கடைசி அணி மாணவர்கள் பல்கலைக்கழகத்துக்கு வர இன்னும் ஐந்தாண்டுகள் இருக்கின்றன. எனவே 55 ஆண்டுகள் போர்ச் சூழலுடனும் அதன் நேரடி மற்றும் மறைமுகத் தாக்கத்துடனும் பல்கலைக்கழகமும் அதன் பீடங்களும் நகர வேண்டியுள்ளன. இத்தகைய முரண்நிலைச் சூழல் ஆளிடைத் தொடர்பு ஆளுமைப் பண்புகளிலும் அதிக தாக்கத்தைச் செலுத்தியுள்ளது. இதனால் விளையும் அத்தனை சவால்களையும் தாண்டியே யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் நகரவேண்டியுள்ளது. எத்தகைய சூழல் வந்தபோதும் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் ஒருபோதும் தன் பெருமதிப்பை இழந்ததில்லை. 2020ஆம் ஆண்டு காலப்பகுதியில் நிர்வாக பரப்பின்

வீச்சிலும் நிலப்பரப்பின் வீச்சிலும் இலங்கையின் முதல் பல்கலைக்கழகமாகத் திகழ்ந்திருந்தது யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம். இது இலங்கையின் பாரம்பரியப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் எனக் கருதப்படும் பேராதனைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தைத் தாண்டிய பெரு வளர்ச்சி. யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் அமைந்திருந்த பிரதான வளாகம், மருதனார் மடம், கைதடி, கிளிநொச்சியில் அமைந்திருந்த கற்கைப்புலங்கள் மற்றும் வவுனியா வளாகம் என ஒட்டுமொத்த நிலப்பரப்பின் அளவில் முதல்நிலை பல்கலைக்கழகம். பீடங்களின் எண்ணிக்கையில் அதிகளவான பீடங்களையும் அதனால் விளைந்த அதிக எண்ணிக்கையானோரைக் கொண்ட பேரவையையும் கொண்ட பல்கலைக்கழகமாகத் திகழ்ந்தது யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம். அதனை விட இலங்கைப் பல்கலைக்கழக வரலாற்றில் என்றும் நிகழமுடியாத அதிசயமும் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழக வரலாற்றில் நிகழ்ந்தது. ஒரே நேரத்தில் இரண்டு தொழில்நுட்ப கற்கைப் பீடங்கள் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழக ஆளுகைக்குள் இருந்தன. இவையெல்லாம் காலத்தால் விளையும் அதிசயங்கள். இத்தகைய அதிசயங்களையும் அசாத்தியங்களையும் சாத்தியமாக்கிய எமது ஞானத்தாயின் ஐம்பது அகவையை கொண்டாடுவது என்பது எவ்வளவு முக்கியமானது. உலகப் பாரம்பரியங்களில், ஒரு நிறுவனம் கடக்கும் தனது பயணத்தில் அவ்வப்போது பல விழாக்களைச் சந்திக்கும். குறிப்பாக முதலில் இருபத்தைந்து ஆண்டுகளில் வெள்ளிவிழாவைக் காணும். இந்தக் காலம் என்பது நீடித்த நிலைத்திருப்புக்கான ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்து கடக்கும் காலம். அப்போது இரண்டாம் தலைமுறையினர் அந் நிறுவனத்தின் பயன்களை அனுபவிக்க ஆரம்பித்திருப்பர். பின்னர் இருபத்தைந்து வருடங்கள் கடந்து ஐம்பதாவது ஆண்டில் பொன்விழாவைக் காணும். இக் காலம் என்பது அந் நிறுவனத்தால் பயன்பெற்று வாழ்வில் உயர்ந்து வளம் பெற்று தம் வாழ்வில் நிறைவையும் செழிப்பையும் உணர்ந்த ஒரு தொகுதிச் சமூகத்தினர் சமூகமட்டத்தில் உயர்நிலையிலிருக்கும் காலம். அதுமட்டுமன்றி மூன்றாம் தலைமுறையினர் அந் நிறுவனத்தின் பயன்களை அனுபவிக்கத் தொடங்கியிருக்கும் காலம். இக் காலத்தில் முதல் தலைமுறையினரை உருவாக்குவதற்காக தம்மை அர்ப்பணித்த பெருமக்களையும் அவர்கள் ஆற்றிய சேவைகளையும் மீள நினைக்கும் காலம். இந்த மீள

நினைத்தல் என்பது பல நன்மைகளை விளைவிக்கும். அவர்களது ஆளுமையின் அளவுகோல்களினால் எம்மை அளவிடுவதற்கும் எமது உயரத்தின் அளவைக் கணிக்கவும் வழிசெய்யும். வளப்பற்றாக்குறை, தொடர்பாடல் நெருக்கடிகள், போக்குவரத்துச் சவால்கள், போர்க்கால அனர்த்தங்கள், பொருளாதாரத் தடைகள், என்பவற்றை தாங்கியும் சமாளித்தும் அவர்கள் அடைந்த அடைவுகளின் பெறுமதியை எடைபோட்டு பிரமிக்கும் காலம் இந்த பொன்விழாக்காலம். அதுமட்டுமன்றி இன்று எமக்கிருக்கும் வளங்கள் அவர்கள் கைகளில் இருந்திருந்தால் அவர்கள் இன்னும் எத்தனை விடயங்களைச் சாதித்திருப்பார்கள் என்பதை அதிசயத்துடன் கற்பனை செய்து பார்க்கும் காலம். அதற்குமப்பால் இன்று நமக்கிருக்கும் வளங்கள் மற்றும் வாய்ப்புக்களுடன் நாம் எதைச் சாதித்திருக்கிறோம் என்பதை அளவீடு செய்து தன்நிறைவு கொள்ளவோ அல்லது சுயபரிசோதனை செய்யவோ வாய்த்த காலம் இந்த ஐம்பதாவது ஆண்டு பொன்விழாக்காலம். நம்மை உயர்த்திய நம் கல்விக் கூடத்துக்கும் அதன் மகிமைக்கும் நாம் எதைத் திரும்பப் பரிசளித்திருக்கிறோம் என எம்மை நாமே கேள்வி கேட்பதற்கான காலம்.

ஐம்பதாண்டுகளை கடக்கும் எந்த நிறுவனமோ அல்லது தனி மனிதரோ தான் சமூகத்துக்கு ஆற்றவேண்டிய அனைத்துக் கடமைகளையும் ஆற்றியிருக்க வேண்டும். அல்லது அக் கடமைகள் நிறைவேற்றப்படுகின்றமைக்கான அடித்தளங்களை உருவாக்கியிருக்க வேண்டும். யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகமும் அதன் பொன்விழாப் பீடங்களான விஞ்ஞான பீடமும் கலைப்பீடமும் இக் கடமைகளை ஆற்றியிருக்கின்றன என்பதற்கு பல ஆதாரங்கள் உண்டு. ஓர் உதாரணமாக யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் அமைந்துள்ள பிராந்திய தலைமைத்துவம் இப்போது யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் பிரசவித்த பட்டதாரிகளின் கைகளிலேயேயுள்ளது. அவர்கள் எடுக்கும் தீர்மானங்கள் தான் பிராந்தியத்தின் வளர்ச்சியையும் எழுச்சியையும் தீர்மானிக்கும் காரணிகள் எனலாம்.

பாராளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர்கள், வடக்கு மாகாணத்தின் ஆளுநர், யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் துணைவேந்தர், வடக்கின் மாவட்ட அரசாங்க அதிபர்கள், யாழ்ப்பாணம் போதனாவைத்தியசாலையின் பணிப்பாளர், வடக்கு மாகாண அமைச்சுக்களின்

செயலர்கள், திணைக்களத் தலைவர்கள், பீடாதிபதிகள், கல்விப் பணிப்பாளர்கள், பாடசாலை அதிபர்கள், வங்கிகளின் உயர்நிலை அதிகாரிகள் என இப்பட்டியல் நீள்கின்றது. இந்த பட்டியல் தாண்டி நிலத்துக்கு வெளியே புலத்திலும் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழக பட்டதாரிகளின் ஆளுமை நாடுகள் தோறும் விரவிக்கிடக்கின்றது. இத்தகையவர்கள் அத்தனைபேரையும் ஒற்றை அடையாளத்தினுள் ஒன்று சேர்ப்பதற்கு யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் எனும் மகுடம் மட்டுமே பொருத்தமானது. எனவே பொன்விழா என்பது வெறுமனே உண்டுகளித்து கூடக் கலையும் ஒரு நிகழ்வல்ல. பின்னர் நிகழ்போகும் பெருமாற்றங்களுக்கான ஆரம்பப் புள்ளியையும் உத்வேகத்தையும் வழங்கும் இயங்குதளத்தை கட்டமைக்கும் புள்ளி. இந்தப் புள்ளியை வினைத்திறனாகப் பயன்கொள்ளும் நிறுவனம் தன் இலட்சிய நோக்குகளை அடைய அடுத்த பத்தாண்டு போதுமானது. இதனாலேயே ஐம்பது தாண்டி பத்தாண்டுகளில் அறுபதில் மீண்டும் வைரவிழா என ஒரு பெருவிழா வருகின்றது. யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகமும் அதன் விஞ்ஞான மற்றும் கலைப்பீடங்களும் தங்கள் வைரவிழாவைக் கொண்டாடும் போது பொன்விழா விளைத்த அறுவடைகளின் பயனை விதந்துரைக்க வேண்டும். அதற்கான வழிகளைத் திறப்பதாக பொன்விழா நிகழ்வுகள் அமையவேண்டும்.

இன்று இலங்கைத் தேசத்தின் பொருளாதாரச் செல்நெறி சவாலுக்குரியதாக இருக்கின்றது. இச் சவாலில் இருந்து மீள ஆகக் குறைந்தது ஒரு தசாப்தம் வேண்டும் என்பது பொருளாதார வல்லுநர்களின் கணிப்பு. அதுவும் பொருத்தமான தேசத்தலமைத்துவம் அமைந்தாலே சாத்தியமானது. இந்நிலையில் அடுத்து வரும் பத்தாண்டுகளும் இலங்கையில் அரசாங்க நிறுவனங்களுக்கு மிகவும் சவாலான ஆண்டாகவே இருக்கும். அரசாங்கத்தின் நிதி ஒதுக்கீடுகள் என்பன வெறுமனே நடைமுறைச் செலவீனங்களை

சமாளிக்கவே போதுமானதாகவிருக்கும். மூலதனச் செலவீனங்களுக்கான ஒதுக்கீடுகளும் முதலீடுகளுக்கான நிதி ஒதுக்கீடுகளும் மிகக் குறைவானதாகவே இருக்கும். இச் சவாலான சூழலினால் பெரும் இடரினைச் சந்திக்கவுள்ளவை அரசாங்கப் பல்கலைக்கழகங்கள் போன்ற மனிதவள உற்பத்தி மையங்களே. அவை பொருட்களை உற்பத்தி செய்து நேரடியாக விற்பனை செய்து தம் செலவீனத்தையோ எதிர்கால நிதி முதலீடுகளையோ சமாளிக்கத்தக்க நிறுவனங்கள் அல்ல. அபிவிருத்தி அடைந்த நாடுகளில் நிலமை வேறாகவிருந்தாலும் இலங்கை போன்ற அரசியல் மற்றும் பொருளாதாரம் ஸ்திரமற்ற நாட்களில் இதுவே நிலமை என்றாகிவிடும். இந்நிலையில் பல்கலைக்கழகங்கள் போன்ற பெருநிறுவனங்கள் தங்கள் மூலதனச் செலவின் தேவையின் பெரும் பகுதியை சமாளிக்க தாம் சார்ந்த சமூகத்தையே நம்பியிருக்க வேண்டிய சூழல் உருவாகின்றது. இந்த காலப்பின்னணியில் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகமும் விஞ்ஞான பீடமும் சந்திக்கும் பொன்விழாவும் அவற்றோடு இணைந்த சமூகத்தின் ஒன்றுபட்ட திரட்சியும் காலக்கனிமிக் கவை. இப்போது மிகுந்த பிரயத்தனத்தின் மத்தியில் விஞ்ஞானபீடத்தின் ஐம்பது ஆண்டுகாலப் பயணத்தின் பொறுப்புதாரர்கள் அனைவரும் ஏதோ ஒரு தளத்தில் ஒன்று சேர்ந்திருக்கின்றார்கள். இந்த ஒன்று சேர்ந்த தளம் என்பது ஒன்று நூறாகி நூறு ஆயிரமாகி விரியவேண்டும். இந்த விரிவு பீடத்தின் பொதுநன்மை கருதிச் சிந்திக்கும் ஒரு தலைமுறைக் கலவையை உருவாக்கும். அக் கலவை பாய்ச்சும் உரத்தில் விஞ்ஞான பீடப்பயிர் செழித்து வளரும். இப் பயிரின் விளைச்சலினால் நம் சமூகத்தின் பலபிரச்சனைகளுக்கு தீர்வுகள் கிடைக்கவேண்டும். தன்முனைப்புக்களைத் தூரவிலக்கி நாம் எனும் ஒற்றுமைப் பண்புக்குள் நுழைந்து ஓராயிரம் காரியங்கள் ஆற்ற நமக்கொரு காலம் வாய்த்திருக்கின்றது. அதனை உரிய வகையில் பயன்கொண்டால் இனமும் வாழும். நாடும் வளம் பெறும்.

Why should we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Faculty of Science?

Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara
30th Batch, Biological Science,
Faculty of Science University of Jaffna

The University of Jaffna, a symbol of the Tamil community of the country, is completing its fiftieth year in 2024. Alongside the university, the Faculty of Science, which started concurrently, and the Faculty of Humanities (initially known by a different name but later renamed as Faculty of Arts), have also reached their Golden Jubilee.

The journey of the university, the Faculty of Science, and the Faculty of Arts over the past fifty years has not been ordinary. Unlike other government universities in Sri Lanka that have had their share of opportunities, the University of Jaffna did not receive similar advantages. The challenges faced by the University of Jaffna have been unique and unprecedented. Despite the scarcity of opportunities and the intensity of challenges, the University of Jaffna and its affiliated faculties have achieved significant milestones. Notably, during major displacements and wartime disasters, the university was never closed at any stage. Particularly, after 1974, every student who completed higher-level examinations was given the opportunity to continue their education at the University of Jaffna.

Celebrating this Golden Jubilee is crucial because it acknowledges the resilience and achievements of the university despite numerous adversities, and honors its enduring contribution to education and the community.

In January 1974, the World Tamil Conference took place, followed by a series of disastrous events that shook the Tamil Eelam community. Against this backdrop, in July 1974, the first steps were taken to establish the University of Jaffna as a campus of the University of Sri Lanka. During the same period, the Tamil Eelam liberation movements began to gain momentum. The university and the liberation struggle were interlinked, with the developments in one inevitably impacting the other. This close connection meant that the progress and setbacks of both were

intertwined, and the university faced significant challenges and losses as a result.

The University of Jaffna and its faculties experienced numerous difficulties, including unjust loss of lives, substantial property damage, displacement of scholars, the inability to make definitive decisions due to administrative chaos, various deficiencies among students, and a shortage of resources. Despite these formidable challenges, which were almost insurmountable for a developing university, the University of Jaffna remained steadfast.

This resilience amidst adversity is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the university's enduring strength and commitment. Celebrating this Golden Jubilee is important not only as a commemoration of its history but also as an acknowledgment of its extraordinary perseverance and accomplishments despite the many hardships it faced. We are now celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the University of Jaffna and its Faculty of Science. Over these fifty years, nearly 35 years have been marked by both war and education. The subsequent 15 years have transitioned from the post-war landscape into education. The last cohort of students from the generation affected by the war in May 2009 will still have five more years to join the university. Consequently, both the university and its faculties have had to navigate through 55 years of wartime conditions, including their direct and indirect impacts. This prolonged state of turmoil has significantly affected interpersonal relationships and personal qualities.

Despite these challenges, the University of Jaffna must continue to advance. It is imperative for the institution to overcome all the difficulties that have arisen and continue its progress. Regardless of the circumstances, the University of Jaffna has never lost its prestige. By 2020, the university was notable for its extensive administrative reach and land reach, standing

as Sri Lanka's first university in these respects. This represented significant growth, surpassing even the traditional prestige of the University of Peradeniya. The University of Jaffna, with its main campus in Maruthanarmadam and additional facilities in Kayts, Kilinochchi, and Vavuniya, is the largest university in Sri Lanka in terms of land area. It had a high number of faculties and, consequently, a large student body, making it a prominent institution in Sri Lankan higher education. Moreover, the University of Jaffna achieved an unprecedented milestone in Sri Lankan university history by housing two faculties of technology simultaneously. These accomplishments are remarkable achievements brought about by time and effort. Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our knowledge hub, which made these extraordinary milestones possible, is of great significance.

In the journey of an organization, it encounters various milestones over time. Specifically, within the first twenty-five years, an organization typically celebrates its Silver Jubilee. This period is dedicated to making arrangements for long-term stability. By this time, the second generation of beneficiaries will have begun to enjoy the advantages provided by the organization. After another twenty-five years, the organization will reach its Golden Jubilee at the fifty-year mark. This period signifies a time when a community that has benefited from the organization has achieved prosperity and fulfillment in their lives, reaching a high social standing. Additionally, by this time, the third generation will have started to experience the benefits of the organization. These milestones not only mark significant achievements but also reflect the organization's sustained impact and success across generations.

During this time, it is an opportunity to reflect on the great individuals who dedicated themselves to creating the first generation and the services they provided. This reflection brings many benefits. It allows us to measure ourselves against their standards of excellence and gauge our own level of success.

The Golden Jubilee period is a time to marvel at the achievements of those who withstood and managed challenges such as resource shortages, communication difficulties, transportation issues, wartime disasters, and economic barriers. It is a moment to appreciate the value of their accomplishments despite these

difficulties. Additionally, it is a time to imagine with wonder how many more achievements might have been realized if the resources we have today had been available to them. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity to assess what we have achieved with the resources and opportunities we currently possess. This period invites personal fulfillment and self-examination, prompting us to question how we have contributed to our educational institutions and their glory. It is a time to reflect on what we have given back in return for the benefits we have received.

An organization or individual that surpasses fifty years should have fulfilled all the responsibilities expected of them or should have laid the foundations for these duties to be accomplished. The University of Jaffna and its Golden Jubilee faculties, the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Arts, have indeed met these responsibilities, and there are numerous examples to support this.

For instance, the regional leadership established by the University of Jaffna is now firmly in the hands of its graduates. The decisions made by these alumni are crucial factors determining the growth and progress of the region. The university has thus played a significant role in shaping the future of the region through its contributions and the success of its graduates.

The list of prominent figures associated with the University of Jaffna extends widely, including members of parliament, the Governor of the Northern Province, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, district government officials of the North, the Director of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital, secretaries of Northern Province ministries, heads of departments, deans of faculties, education officials, school principals, and senior bank officials. Beyond this list, the influence of University of Jaffna graduates extends internationally, showcasing their leadership across various countries. The University of Jaffna is uniquely suited to unify all these individuals under one identity, symbolizing the institution's role as a crown. Therefore, the Golden Jubilee is not merely a celebration or a social event but a foundational milestone that provides a platform for future significant changes and innovations. It serves as a starting point and a source of motivation for the next phase of growth. The institution, effectively leveraging this milestone, can achieve its goals over the next decade. This is why, after surpassing



fifty years, another significant event, the Diamond Jubilee, will be celebrated in sixty years. When the University of Jaffna and its Faculties of Science and Arts celebrate their Golden Jubilee, they should reflect on the achievements yielded and create pathways for future success. The Golden Jubilee celebrations should thus pave the way for new opportunities and strategies, ensuring that the benefits of this milestone are fully realized and utilized

Sri Lanka is currently facing significant economic challenges. Experts estimate that overcoming these challenges may take at least a decade, and this is contingent upon establishing appropriate national governance structures. In this context, the next ten years are expected to be particularly challenging for government institutions in Sri Lanka. Government financial allocations will likely be limited to covering routine operational expenses. Allocations for capital expenditures and investments will be minimal. As a result, institutions that focus on human resource development, such as government universities, will face considerable difficulties. Unlike entities that produce goods and sell them directly, universities do not generate revenue in this manner to cover their expenses or future investments. In developed countries, the situation might differ, but in politically and economically unstable nations like Sri Lanka, this is the prevailing condition. Consequently, large

institutions like universities will need to rely heavily on their communities to meet a substantial portion of their capital expenditure needs.

Against this backdrop, the Golden Jubilee of the University of Jaffna and its Faculty of Science, as well as the collective efforts of the associated community, are of significant importance. This milestone is not only a time to celebrate achievements but also an opportunity to reflect on the crucial role of community support in addressing the financial and developmental challenges faced by the institution.

Currently, amidst significant efforts, all those responsible for the fifty-year journey of the Faculty of Science are united on a common platform. This platform must evolve and expand to encompass a hundredfold, reaching into the hundreds of thousands. Such expansion will foster a generation that contemplates the public good of the Faculty. This collective thinking will nurture the growth of the scientific endeavors within the Faculty.

The fruits of this growth should offer solutions to many of our community's challenges. By overcoming individual limitations and embracing a spirit of unity, we have the opportunity to achieve a thousand tasks in due course. If utilized effectively, this collective effort will not only benefit our community but also contribute to the prosperity of our nation.



பொன்விழாக் காண வாரீர்

யரியூரணானந்தசர்மா சசிவர்ணன்

1995/1996 கல்வியாண்டு,

பௌதீக விஞ்ஞானப் பிரிவு

முத்தெனத் தோன்றியே பெரு
முதுசமாய் நடை போடும் நம்
சொத்தெனப் போற்றும்
விஞ்ஞானபீட மதின் புகழ் நீள
அகவையாம் பொன்விழாக் காண
அனைவரும் ஒன்றாய் வாரீர்

வான் தொடும் அறிவினால் ஓங்கி
அகிலம் வியந்திடும் யாழின்
விஞ்ஞானபீடம் தந்த விழுதுகள் - மீண்டும்
கூடியிங்கு விருட்சத்தைப் போற்றி நிற்கும்
அகவையாம் பொன்விழாக் காண
அனைவரும் ஒன்றாய் வாரீர்

ஓங்கிடும் கீர்த்தி சேர்ந்திடப்
பாங்குடன் உயர்ந்த பல்கலை கூடம்
தேங்கிய நல்லறிவு வித்தை தெவிட்டாத
ஞானமெல்லாம் தாங்கிய பெரும் பீடம் அதன்
அகவையாம் பொன்விழாக் காண
அனைவரும் ஒன்றாய் வாரீர்

ஆனந்தக் கீற்றாக தேனூறும்
சுவையூற்றாக அன்போடு அகமகிழ்ந்து
அளித்திடும் விழாவென அசத்திய
பெருமை பல தாங்கிய நினைவு கொண்டு
அகவையாம் பொன்விழாக் காண
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Progressive Journey

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Progressive Journey of the Faculty of Science

Punniamoorthy Ravirajan, Dean, Faculty of Science

1.0 Preamble

The Faculty of Science (FoS) takes great pride in being one of the country's prestigious and oldest science faculties, renowned for producing highly competent graduates and postgraduates. Established on October 25, 1974, the faculty has consistently upheld its commitment to nurturing intellectually and professionally adept science graduates, aligning seamlessly with its overarching vision.

Approaching its Golden Jubilee on October 25, 2024, the Faculty of Science reflects on its remarkable journey over five decades and looks forward to its meticulously planned path. This milestone provides a valuable opportunity to commemorate achievements with pride and envisage the future with confidence.

Maintaining internationally acceptable standards is integral to the faculty's commitment. External examiners from renowned global universities oversee the quality of honours degree examination processes, ensuring excellence. The faculty boasts a commendable track record of producing competent graduates, offering Bachelor of Science degree programmes spanning three and four years. These programmes cover both pure and applied sciences, incorporating comprehensive skill development components. Graduates exhibit scholarly prowess coupled with versatile skills, meeting the evolving demands of the global job market.

Vision

“To be a recognised centre of science learning in Sri Lanka”

Mission

“To produce competent graduates who excel in learning and research in basic sciences and who could contribute to the development of the nation”

Values

- Excellence: Promoting excellence in Research, Academic and Outreach activities by utilising the human and physical resources of the faculty

- Integrity: Constant pursuit of being exemplary in maintaining the highest professional and ethical standards through trust, honesty, and respect
- Co-creation: Fostering ingenuity, creativity, and innovation through collaborative development of impactful research and innovation, and research commercialization
- Community Engagement: Transforming lives of the community and the nation through identifying their needs and challenges and applying the knowledge creation for the benefit of the community and national development
- Unity in Diversity: Respecting, recognising, and valuing all people with equality, civility and dignity

The FoS aspires to achieve its mission by setting out clear objectives as follows:

- to attain an internationally recognisable level of teaching and research;
- to disseminate scientific knowledge and popularise science;
- to improve the quality of science education;
- to provide services directed towards the environmental, social and technological needs of the region;
- to be the regional research centre in science, developing indigenous scientific methods using local resources; and
- to improve the economic and social conditions of the local population.

2.0 Brief history

The Faculty of Science was set up in October 1974 at Vaddukoddai in the premises taken over from the undergraduates' section of the Jaffna College. The first batch of students numbering 103 was admitted to the Faculty on 25th of October 1974 and only a course in Mathematics and Statistics was provided initially. The late Professor P. Kanagasabapathy functioned

as the first Dean of the Faculty and the Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Following the appointment of Heads for the Departments of Botany, Chemistry, Physics, and Zoology, along with some Assistant Lecturers for each department, courses in Physical Science and Bioscience were launched in 1975. As the facilities available in the small laboratories at Vaddukoddai were grossly inadequate for work beyond the first-year courses and future expansion at Vaddukoddai was not possible due to an acute shortage of freshwater and space, a decision was taken to erect new buildings for the Faculty of Science at Thirunelvely where the Faculty of Humanities and the administrative offices were sited.

The faculty shifted to the Thirunelvely premises in June 1978 soon after the completion of the Natural Science Block (Stage I), the foundation for which was laid on 7 May 1975. In 1977, funds were allotted for a building to the Department of Physics and this building came into the occupation in September 1980. Funds were also allocated for two other buildings in 1979, one for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the other for the Department of Chemistry. The Mathematics Block was completed in 1985, and the Chemistry Block was completed in 1988. The Natural Science Block (Stage II) was opened for academic activities in 2016. The foundation for the Department of Computer Science building was laid on 27 June 2019 with the World Bank funded AHEAD Project and was opened for academic activities on 01 June 2022.

The annual intake of students to the faculty had increased over the years. Since 2010, the faculty has flourished with the intake of students from all parts of the country representing all ethnicities which added a conducive multicultural environment in the faculty to foster and promote social harmony. Under the President's scholarship scheme, a few international students have also been admitted to the faculty since 2016. The current student population at the faculty is over 1300.

3.0 Degree Programmes

The faculty offers BSc degrees of three-year duration (traditionally referred to as the General degree) and BScHons degrees of four-year duration (traditionally referred to as the Special degree).

- **Bachelor of Science:** Degrees of three-year duration in the streams of biological and physical sciences.
- **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science:** Degree of three years duration for those directly admitted by the UGC to study computer science.
- **Bachelor of Science Honours:** Degree in subject mark disciplines namely, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Fisheries Science, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, and Zoology.
- **Bachelor of Science Honours in Computer Science:** For those directly admitted by the UGC to study Computer Science.
- **Bachelor of Science Honours in Applied Science:** Degree with seven options which are Biology, Botany, Chemistry, Computing, Physics, Financial Mathematics, Industrial Statistics, and Zoology

Selection to BScHons (subject-specific) degree programme is made at the end of the second year (Level 2). In the case of the BScHons (Applied Science) degree programme, the selection is made at the end of first semester of the third year (Level 3) of study. Selection for a four-year degree programme is generally based on the availability of places and on the performance of students in the examinations. Biological Science and Physical Science stream students who have passed the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination and have satisfied all the respective entrance requirements are admitted to the faculty by the UGC. Students are also admitted by the UGC directly to a subject-specific programme. At present, students are admitted only to the Computer Science study programme as direct-intake. These students follow a three-year degree. The selection to Honours degree programme shall be made at the end of the second year of study (Level 2S) based on the performances of these students in the first two years of studies

The names of the three-year and four-year degree programmes and their abbreviations are illustrated as follows.

BSc degrees (Three years)

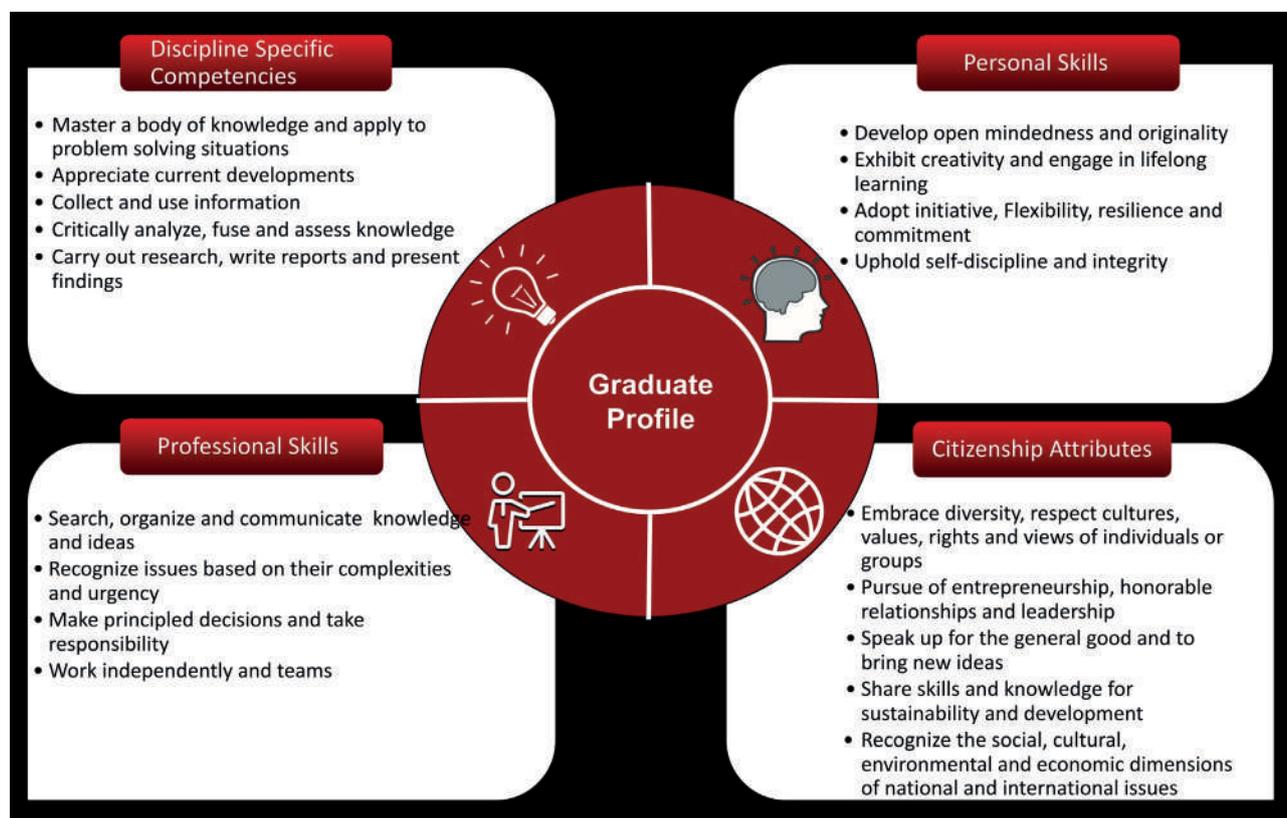
| Stream of study | Name of the Degree | Abbreviation |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|
| Biological Sciences | Bachelor of Science | BSc |
| Physical Sciences | | |
| Computer Science | Bachelor of Science in Computer Science | BSc (Computer Science) |

BScHons degrees (Four years)

| Subject of Study | Name of the Degree | Abbreviation of the Degree |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Botany | Bachelor of Science Honours in Botany | BScHons (Botany) |
| Chemistry | Bachelor of Science Honours in Chemistry | BScHons (Chemistry) |
| Computer Science (Physical Science Stream) | Bachelor of Science Honours in Computer Science | BScHons (ComputerSc) |
| Computer Science (Direct-intake) | Bachelor of Science Honours in Computer Science | BSc Hons (Computer Science) |
| Fisheries Science | Bachelor of Science Honours in Fisheries Science | BScHons (FisheriesSc) |
| Mathematics (Pure & Applied Mathematics) | Bachelor of Science Honours in Mathematics | BScHons (Mathematics) |
| Physics | Bachelor of Science Honours in Physics | BScHons (Physics) |
| Statistics | Bachelor of Science Honours in Statistics | BScHons (Statistics) |
| Zoology | Bachelor of Science Honours in Zoology | BScHons (Zoology) |
| Applied Science | Bachelor of Science Honours in Applied Science | BScHons (AppliedSc) |
| Science Education | Bachelor of Science Honours in Science and Education | BScHons (ScienceEdu) |

3.1 Graduate Profile

Graduates from the faculty possess the following attributes:



The FoS aims to instil in its graduates the competencies in academic disciplines, personal and professional skills and citizenship attributes through its teaching, learning and research activities and enhancement of the advisory and support services, and cultural, social and sports related extracurricular activities.

The FoS is dedicated to develop the learning and teaching environment with the current developments in science education and research so that the graduates shall meet the expectation of the trends of the global science community. Ultimately, the BScHons degree holder from the UoJ shall be a scholar with versatile skills to cater the needs of local communities and shall become a professional in the choosen field as well as a global citizen.

3.2 Expected Programme Outcomes

The expected programme outcomes represent what a graduate is expected to know and/or be able to do after completing the study programme. In addition to the expected outcomes of the BSc degree programme, the BScHons graduates are expected to be with

- ability to systematically analyse the core ideas of the subject of specialization
- ability to construct new knowledge in the subject of specialization
- ability to find solutions to problems with professional context
- ability to utilize the knowledge for personal development and in professional practice
- capacity to carry out research and effectively disseminate new knowledge and/or ideas
- ability to adapt, initiate change and construct ideas to lead the change to help the needy society with social responsibility and positive attitude

All these programme outcomes are achieved by incorporating relevant teaching, learning, and assessment strategies in the study programmes.

3.3. Subjects

The faculty offers four principal subjects in the Biological Science stream, six in the Physical Science stream, and Computer Science for direct-intake students as shown in the following table. Courses in

principal subjects are offered throughout the degree programmes.

| Stream of Study | Principal Subject(s) |
|---------------------------|---|
| Biological Science | Botany, Chemistry, Fisheries Science, Zoology |
| Physical Science | Applied Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, Pure Mathematics, Statistics |
| Computer Science | Computer Science |

Depending on the demand and the availability of the resources, the following supplementary subjects are offered in Level 3 (Third year): Environmental Science, Food and Nutrition, and Information Technology (for students who are not offered Computer Science as a subject in Levels 1 and 2), Electronics (for students who are not offered Physics as a subject in Levels 1 and 2).

The faculty conducts 90 hours (15 hours per week) of English language proficiency courses to the new entrants in collaboration with the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT) prior to commencing the principal and supplementary courses. It should be noted that a student should possess a Pass (overall band score 4.0 out of 9.0) in an English language proficiency course for the award of a degree.

In line with the graduate profile of the faculty, several other skill enhancement short courses on computer literacy, life skills, learning gender, and Mathematics for Biological Science Students are offered as pre-semester courses. Further, the career guidance cell of the faculty conducts Career Fair for the final year students in collaboration with leading institutions.

4.0 Staff Profile and Student Statistics

4.1 Staff Profile

FoS is home to seven departments: Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Fisheries, Physics, Mathematics and Statistics, and Zoology, and is supported by a dedicated team of 84 academic staff, 59 academic-support staff, and 80 non-academic staff. Remarkably, nearly 90% of the permanent academic staff hold postgraduate qualifications, with nearly two-thirds having earned their PhDs. Many of these scholars have received their training abroad, in



countries including the United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, various European nations, and South Africa. Currently, up to 90% of the academic cadre positions within the faculty are filled, with recruitment ongoing to meet emerging needs. This robust and diverse academic community continues to be a cornerstone of excellence at the Faculty of Science.

Highest academic qualifications obtained by the academic staff at each department as of 2024

| Department | PhD | MPhil/MSc | BSc | Total |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Botany | 7 | 4 | 0 | 11 |
| Chemistry | 13 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Computer Science | 9 | 1 | 2 | 12 |
| Fisheries | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Mathematics & Statistics | 11 | 7 | 1 | 19 |
| Physics | 7 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| Zoology | 7 | 5 | 0 | 12 |
| Total | 56 | 22 | 6 | 84 |
| Percentage (%) | 67 | 26 | 7 | 100 |

* More than 90 % of the faculty staff hold postgraduate qualifications.

Designation of the academic staff: Department-wise

| Department | Designation | | | | | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Professors (Chair) | Professors | Associate Professors | Senior Lecturers | Lecturers | |
| Botany | - | 3 | 1 | 7 | - | 11 |
| Chemistry | 1 | 6 | - | 6 | - | 13 |
| Computer Science | - | 2 | - | 7 | 3 | 12 |
| Fisheries | 1 | - | - | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Mathematics & Statistics | - | 2 | - | 13 | 4 | 19 |
| Physics | 1 | 1 | - | 6 | 3 | 11 |
| Zoology | 1 | 3 | - | 6 | 2 | 12 |
| Total | 4 | 17 | 1 | 47 | 15 | 84 |
| Percentage | 5% | 20% | 1% | 56% | 18% | 100% |

* 82 % of the faculty staff have been serving as Senior Lecturer or above.

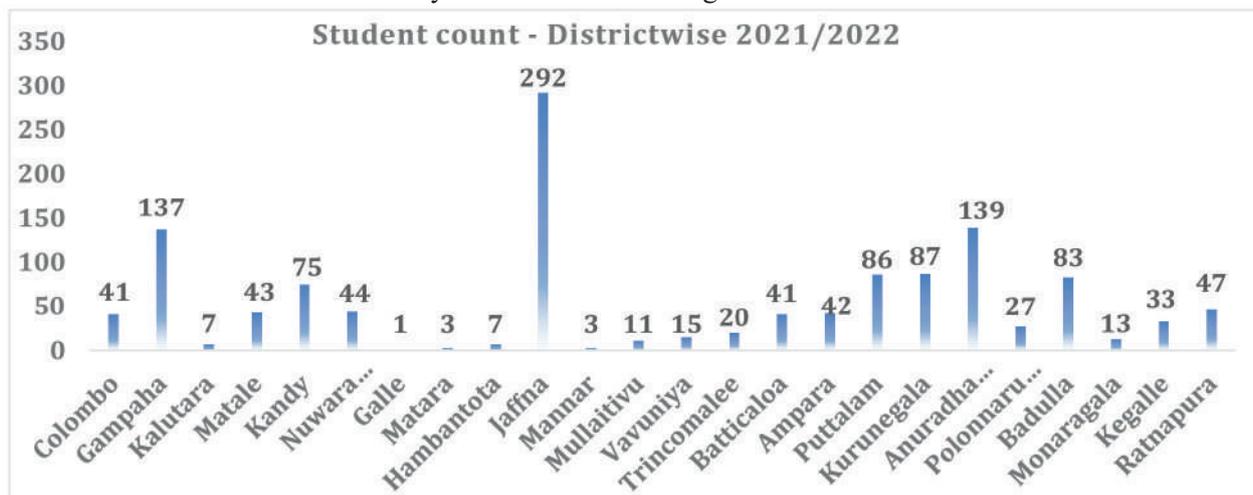


Figure 1: District-wise student count in the calendar year 2023/2024

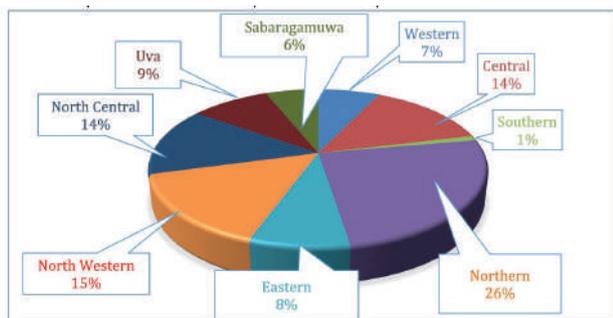


Figure 2: Provincial-wise student percentage in the calendar year 2023/2024

4.2 Student statistics

Over the years, the Faculty of Science has experienced a steady increase in its annual student intake, growing to 400 students today from approximately 200 in the mid-1980s and just 100 at its inception. Since 2010, the faculty has attracted a significant number of students from various provinces across the country, representing diverse ethnicities. This influx has fostered a vibrant, multicultural environment that promotes social harmony within the faculty.

The introduction of the President’s Scholarship Scheme in 2015 has further enriched the faculty’s cultural tapestry by facilitating the admission of international students. As a result, the Faculty of Science now proudly hosts a student population exceeding 1,300. This diverse community, comprising individuals from across the island and various ethnic and international backgrounds, significantly enhances the richness of the faculty’s academic and social landscape.

Gender-wise breakdown of the students in the current academic year

| Gender \ Level | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Total | % |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Male | 182 | 212 | 170 | 59 | 623 | 47 |
| Female | 213 | 183 | 179 | 118 | 693 | 53 |
| Total | 395 | 395 | 349 | 177 | 1316 | 100 |

The ethnicity-wise breakdown of the students in the current academic year

| Ethnicity \ Level | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Total | % |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Tamils | 127 | 128 | 123 | 67 | 445 | 34 |
| Sinhalese | 222 | 227 | 191 | 89 | 729 | 55 |
| Muslims | 46 | 40 | 35 | 21 | 142 | 11 |
| Total | 395 | 395 | 349 | 177 | 1316 | 100 |

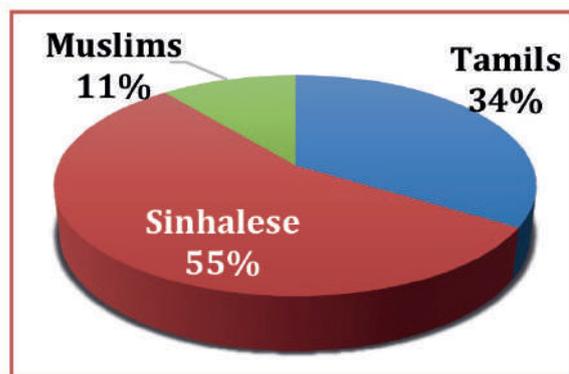


Figure 3: Ethnicity-wise breakdown

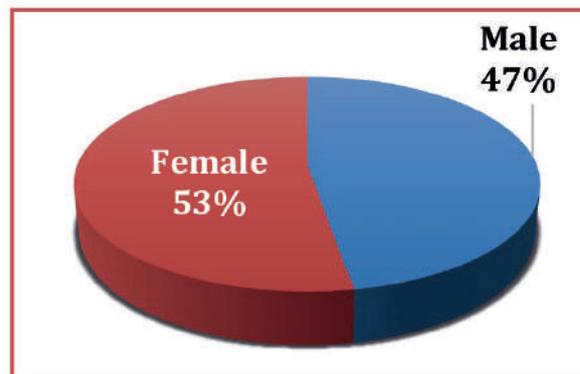


Figure 4: Gender-wise breakdown in the current academic year

5.0 Organisational Structure and Infrastructure facilities:

The Faculty of Science is supported by an efficient organisational structure that ensures the effective implementation of its core functions. To successfully manage and execute essential duties such as programme design, development, delivery, student support, and research activities, the Faculty Board of Science has established several sub-committees. These include the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Science Faculty Research Committee, Building Committee, Biosafety Committee, Career Guidance Cell, Curriculum Development, Revision, and Monitoring Committee (CDRMC), Newsletter & Handbook Committee, Strategic Management Planning Committee, and the Web & IT Services Committee. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Terms of Reference (ToR) for these sub-committees have been developed to guide their activities and ensure efficient execution.

The faculty adopts a participatory approach with its stakeholders, aligning its activities with the strategic and its action plans. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes and induction

sessions are conducted to keep staff members up-to-date with the latest developments in their fields.

All departments, except the newly established Department of Fisheries, are equipped with the necessary infrastructure to support effective teaching, practical, research, and outreach. Both staff and students benefit from user-friendly and efficient library and ICT facilities. The faculty embraces innovative learning strategies, including the use of Learning Management Systems (LMS) and Open Educational Resources (OER). Additionally, students are encouraged to enhance their English language proficiency and soft skills through various programmes. The faculty also promotes cohesion and harmony among students by fostering multicultural and religious activities.

6.0 Curriculum Development and Revision

Revising the curriculum on a five-year cycle is essential to ensure its relevance, adaptability, and alignment with both educational and societal needs, ultimately delivering a high-quality education. Since its inception, the Faculty of Science has periodically revamped or revised its curriculum in response to changing demands, integrating new knowledge, raising educational standards, accommodating evolving student preferences, improving teaching methods, incorporating feedback, engaging in long-term strategic planning, and consistently striving for improvement. The teaching quality is continually evaluated through peer assessments and student feedback, ensuring ongoing enhancement.

The current structure and syllabi, which were implemented for students enrolled in the 2016/2017 academic year, were introduced in 2018. Additionally, the degree programmes offered by the faculty have undergone evaluation by reviewers appointed by the Quality Assurance Council of the University Grants Commission. The BScHons (Computer Science) study programme received Grade A in 2023. The rest of the BScHons degree programmes will be reviewed in due course. The report of Reviewers for the BSc degree programme is yet to be received from the Quality Assurance Council. The faculty considered revising the curriculum and making structural changes to its degree programmes, taking into account the feedback obtained from stakeholders and programme reviewers.

Consequently, the Faculty Board of Science has decided to initiate the curriculum revision process for all three-year and four-year degree programmes, intending to implement the revised curriculum for students enrolling in the next academic year.

In addition, curricula development for two new Honours degree programmes is underway. The Faculty Board has approved the titles of the course units and a roster of resource persons based on the recommendations of the committee tasked with revamping the curriculum for the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree programme in Science Education. Simultaneously, the curriculum for the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree programme in Molecular Biology has received endorsement from the Curriculum Development, Revision, and Monitoring Committee and will be presented at the upcoming Faculty Board of Science meeting for further recommendations.

7.0 Research & Development

The faculty has fostered a robust culture of research and innovation, actively encouraging the participation of both academics and students. Student research is seamlessly integrated into the curriculum, while faculty members engage in collaborative research with prestigious international institutions, including Imperial College London, the University of Edinburgh, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, the University of Bergen, the University of Southampton, the Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University, Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Bern, Arizona State University, the University of Malaya, and the Coimbatore Institute of Technology. Faculty members have published numerous research papers in high-impact journals, contributing to over 35% of the university's indexed journal publications. Through several signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs), more than 15 research students have completed at least one year of research training at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences and the University of Bergen in the last five years.

Our faculty has secured grants ranging from one hundred million to one billion rupees from national funding agencies like the UNDP (SGP),

National Research Council and the National Science Foundation, as well as international organisations such as The World Academy of Sciences (Italy), the International Foundation for Science (Sweden), the Swedish National Research Council, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Indo-Sri Lankan partnership, the Pakistan Science Foundation, Asian Development Bank, The World Bank (IRQUE, HETC and AHEAD) Projects, the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills, and the Royal Norwegian Embassy. These grants were obtained through applications submitted in collaboration with national and international partners. Additionally, senior academics have successfully secured research funding from professional entities like IEEE and major global technology companies such as Google, further promoting a research-oriented culture and supporting various student activities.

These grants have been instrumental in establishing several state-of-the-art research laboratories equipped with sophisticated research tools, including the Spectroscopy Laboratory, the Nanoscience Research Laboratory, the Clean Energy Research Laboratory (CERL), the Laboratory for Energy Conversion and Storage (LECS), the Material Science Research Laboratory, and the Centre for Research in Entomology. These efforts have been recognised with prestigious national awards, such as the President's Award for Outstanding Scientific Research Publications, the CVCD Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding Young Researcher in Physical Sciences, the Young Scientist Award, the CSSL Researcher of the Year, the National Science Foundation Research Award, and the SUSRED (Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degrees) Award, among others. Several staff members have also filed national research and technology-based patents, some of which have been successfully awarded. Notably, a couple of patents on "Biosensor Device and Methods," resulting from collaborative work with Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, have been published in the US Patent Directory.

The World Bank-funded AHEAD Operation Grants (ELTA-ELSE) awarded to the faculty and the Departments of Chemistry, Physics, and Zoology have led to significant advancements. As a result of these grants, the premises of the Incubation Cell, the Research Centre of Excellence, and the Social Welfare Centre have been refurbished within the

faculty. Seminar halls with smart learning amenities have been established in the departments, and several well-equipped laboratories have been established or refurbished. Of particular note is the construction of a four-storey, state-of-the-art building for the Department of Computer Science, with an estimated current value of over 700 million rupees. This achievement is the culmination of three decades of dedicated efforts by the department staff in writing and submitting various proposals to funding agencies.

8.0 Contribution to the Development of the University and Outreach Activities

The faculty staff have actively contributed to the broader university community since the university's inception, consistently holding key university-level positions. These roles include Vice-Chancellor, Senate Representative to the Council, Director of the Centre for Quality Assurance, Director of the Career Guidance Unit, Director of University Business Linkages, Director of the International Collaboration Unit, Director of the Staff Development Centre, Alumni Officer, Director of the Operational Technical Secretariat for World Bank-funded projects, Director of Student Welfare, and Proctor. Their involvement has spanned many years, demonstrating a strong commitment to the university's growth and success.

The faculty has also organised numerous outreach activities for school students and the general public through various projects. Importantly, the Centre for Science Education of the faculty in collaboration with the Jaffna Science Association conducted a series of preparatory sessions for Science and Technology stream students who sit GCE (A/L) examinations in the Northern and Eastern Provinces with the dedicated services of the senior academic staff. Over 1300 GCE (A/L) Science stream students benefited from these sessions conducted district-wise. The Department of Zoology offers a certificate course in Molecular Biology Laboratory Techniques specifically designed for non-university entrants. Further a competition on clean energy technologies based on innovative prototype model development was conducted among the school students in the Northern province to promote STEM education. The Department of Computer Science through the IEEE Student Branch at the University of Jaffna has obtained multiple grants to advance STEM education and has hosted numerous workshops on IoT and Robotics. The staff members from the faculty reach out to the needs of the community by providing training, acting

as consultants in development projects, contributing to regional and national-level steering committees, developing and implementing community-level projects to enhance the viability of the region. Department of Fisheries seriously focuses on outreach activities such as monitoring marine environments and fisheries ecosystems, beach pollution analysis, climate change impacts through satellite monitoring, imparting scientific knowledge in formulating fisheries regulation etc. and therefore fostering skills to broaden livelihood opportunities and increase resilience to future challenges.

By integrating research and community outreach, the departments demonstrate their commitment to using scientific advancements for practical applications that benefit both the environment and the local community.

9.0 Future Development Plans

The Faculty is renowned for producing highly competent graduates and postgraduates and is on a continuous path of growth and advancement, driven by a clear vision and strategic initiatives aligned with its mission and goals. Key areas of focus include:

- **Developing Infrastructure for the Department of Fisheries:** All departments, except the Department of Fisheries, have buildings to support effective teaching, practical, research, and outreach activities. Apart from the significant achievements in research, awards, and international training opportunities, the Department of Fisheries continues to face challenges due to a lack of centralized infrastructure. The scattered locations in five different places in and outside the faculty premises, limited lecture halls and laboratory spaces have restricted the student intake for the degree program, with a maximum of 40 students per batch. A land has been allocated for constructing a four-storey building near the Dean's office and the department is actively seeking financial assistance.
- **Enhancing Teaching and Learning:** Innovation in teaching methods and curriculum design is a top priority. The faculty is dedicated to creating dynamic, student-centred learning environments that prepare graduates to meet future challenges. By integrating the latest educational technologies and methodologies, the faculty aims to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their careers and make meaningful contributions to society. To enhance the faculty's recognition on an international scale, the Faculty of Science Alumni Association has initiated efforts to secure accreditation from the esteemed Royal Society of Biology for Biological Science degree programmes. This initiative aims to ensure that the programmes meet the highest global standards of excellence in biological education, thereby increasing the credibility and value of the degrees offered. Achieving this accreditation will not only strengthen the international reputation of the Faculty of Science but also open up greater opportunities for graduates in the global job market and academia.
- **Expanding Research Capabilities:** The faculty is committed to securing additional funding to bolster its research efforts, including upgrading and modernising laboratory facilities to support cutting-edge research and foster innovation in areas such as modeling, biophysics, quantum optics, artificial intelligence, bionics and the application of omics technologies to resolve biological problems.
- **Strengthening Partnerships:** Building stronger research collaborations with academic institutions, industry, and community organizations is crucial for expanding research opportunities and enhancing public engagement. The Faculty plans to establish new partnerships and reinforce existing ones, creating a robust network of collaborators that will facilitate interdisciplinary research and community-based projects.
- **Introducing new BScHons degree programmes:** The faculty is in the process of revamping the structure and syllabi for the BScHons (ScienceEdu). The Department of Computer Science is in the process of commencing two additional degree programmes namely, BScHons (Artificial Intelligence) and BScHons (Cybersecurity). A new BScHons in Molecular Biology degree programme is in the pipeline.
- **Commencing Postgraduate degree programmes:** The faculty staff coordinate the MSc degree programmes in Environmental Management and Clean Energy Technologies. The Department of Computer Science has already developed the structure and syllabi to commence Master of Computer Science (MCS) and Master of Science in Computer Science (MSc (CS)) degree programmes. The Department of Zoology has

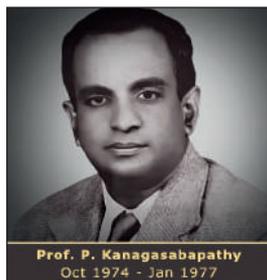
developed the structure and syllabi to commence a Master of Science in Applied Entomology degree programme.

- **Supporting Faculty and Students:** The Faculty recognises the importance of investing in its faculty and students. Efforts will be made to provide more professional development opportunities for faculty, ensuring they remain at the forefront in their fields. Additionally, increasing level

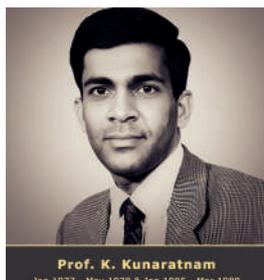
of support for student research and career development is a priority, with initiatives designed to foster a research-intensive environment and provide students with the necessary resources and mentorship needed for success.

The faculty also deeply appreciates the dedication of its staff, whose commitment has driven the development of the faculty over five decades despite various challenges.

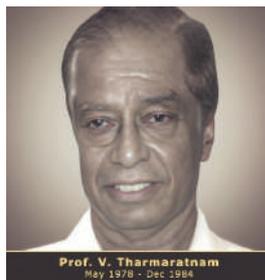
10.0 Deans of the Faculty of Science from 1974



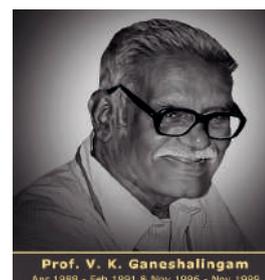
Prof. P. Kanagasabapathy
Oct 1974 - Jan 1977



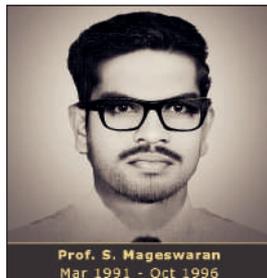
Prof. K. Kunaratnam
Jan 1977 - May 1978 & Jan 1985 - Mar 1988



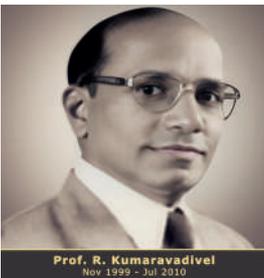
Prof. V. Tharmaratnam
May 1978 - Dec 1984



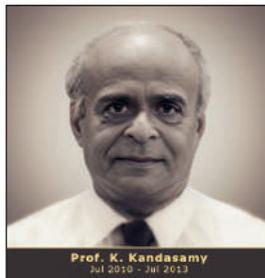
Prof. V. K. Ganeshalingam
Apr 1988 - Feb 1991 & Nov 1996 - Nov 1999



Prof. S. Mageswaran
Mar 1991 - Oct 1996



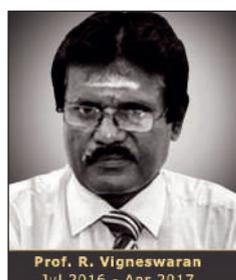
Prof. R. Kumaravadiel
Nov 1999 - Jul 2010



Prof. K. Kandasamy
Jul 2010 - Jul 2013



Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah
Jul 2013 - Jul 2016



Prof. R. Vigneswaran
Jul 2016 - Apr 2017



Prof. J. P. Jeyadevan
May 2017 - Jul 2020



Prof. R. Ravirajan
June 2020 - to date

Over the past five decades, the Faculty of Science at the University of Jaffna has been guided by a succession of distinguished deans whose leadership has been instrumental in its growth and success. Prof. P. Kanagasabapathy (October 1974 - January 1977) served as the founder dean, laying a solid foundation for the faculty's future endeavors. He was succeeded by Prof. K. Kunaratnam (January 1977 - May 1978), who continued to build upon this groundwork. Prof. V. Tharmaratnam (June 1978 - December 1984) then took the helm, followed by Prof. K. Kunaratnam in his second term (January 1985 - March 1988). Leadership was subsequently assumed by Prof. V. K. Ganeshalingam (April 1988 - February 1991), succeeded by Prof. S. Mageswaran (March 1991 - October 1996). Prof. Ganeshalingam returned for a second term (November 1996 - November 1999), after which Prof. R. Kumaravadiel (November 1999 - July 2010) led the faculty through a decade of significant growth. Following him, Prof. K. Kandasamy (July 2010 - July 2013) took over the leadership, succeeded by Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah (July 2013 - July 2016). Prof. R. Vigneswaran (July 2016 - April 2017) then assumed the role, followed by Prof. J. P. Jeyadevan (May 2017 - May 2020). The faculty is currently headed by Senior Professor P. Ravirajan, who has been leading since June 2020. Each of these leaders has played a pivotal role in steering the faculty toward academic excellence and research innovation, leaving an indelible mark on its history.

Staff of the Dean's Office



Prof. P. Ravirajan
Dean, Faculty of Science



Mrs. K. Vavananth
Management Assistant



Mrs. Vijitha Prasath
Senior Assistant Registrar



Ms. S. Tharshika
Management Assistant



Mr. S.D. Jeshanthan
Staff Management Assistant



Mr. B. Narendran
Works Aide



Mr. M. Nishanth
Management Assistant



Mr. B. Krishdeepan
Works Aide



“I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.” - Isaac Newton (1642-1727)

Department of Botany

University of Jaffna

- **Foundation and Establishment:** In 1975, the undergraduate programme was shifted from Jaffna College to Jaffna Campus. Mr. A. Sivapalan, an assistant lecturer, was appointed as the first Head of the Department of Botany. He was later joined by another assistant lecturer, Mr. K. Arumuganathan, marking the beginning of the department's permanent academic staff.
- In 1978, Prof. K. Theivendirarajah was appointed as the Professor of Botany and Head of the Department. The following year, Dr. S. Kandiah joined the department. During this period, the Special Degree in Botany was introduced, and in 1986, the first postgraduate degree programme was established. The initial PhD programme was launched with supervision from Prof. K. Theivendirarajah and Prof. Ola Skold of the University of Uppsala, Sweden. This collaboration was supported by SAREC.

Evolution and Growth: Significant milestones, changes, and developments

| Year | Memorable Event |
|------|---|
| 1980 | The Special Degree in Botany was introduced. |
| 1986 | A full-time postgraduate degree, the Master of Science in Plant Physiology and Horticulture was introduced. |
| 1990 | A Diploma in Applied Microbiology (self-financed course) was introduced. |

| | |
|------|---|
| 1991 | The Special Degree in Botany was discontinued due to a shortage of staff. |
| 1999 | The Special Degree in Botany was restarted. |
| 2000 | Renovation of Plant Tissue Culture Laboratory |
| 2004 | The foundation for Natural Science Block II was laid. |
| 2006 | A portion of the Advanced Laboratory was reserved for the Molecular Biology Laboratory. |
| 2006 | Postgraduate research activities were resumed. |
| 2013 | The Biological Society (BIOSOC) was reactivated |
| 2014 | Curriculum revisions were made. Natural Science Block II was opened |
| 2018 | Renovation of Natural Science Block I was completed. |

Academic Programmes and Offerings: The Department of Botany offers course units for the Bachelor of Science Degree and the Honours Degree in Botany (formerly known as the Special Degree in Botany). A modularised credit value system was introduced in 2004. Subsequently, major curriculum revisions were made at all levels in 2014 and 2015. In 2015, a new degree programme, the Honours Degree in Applied Science (Botany), was launched. Currently, the department is collaborating with the Department of Zoology to initiate an Honours Degree in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology.

Key Figures and Contributions:

| Name of the Contributor | Contribution to Teaching/Research/Administration |
|---------------------------|---|
| Prof. K. Theivendirarajah | <p>Professor Theivendirarajah played a pivotal role in establishing graduate studies within the Faculty of Science. He supervised two PhD and four MPhil students. His contributions to genetics and microbiology included numerous studies on the microbiology of palm juice fermentation, culminating in his 2008 book, <i>Palmyrah Palm – A Monograph</i>.</p> <p>Professor Theivendirarajah's leadership in the Department of Botany at the University of Jaffna was characterised by notable academic and administrative achievements.</p> |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Prof. S. Kandiah | The late Prof. S. Kandiah had a long and distinguished research and academic career. In 1978, he joined the Department of Botany as a Senior Lecturer and served as the Head of the Department from 1986 to 1989. He was later promoted to Associate Professor in Botany. An expert in crop physiology, Prof. Kandiah utilized his extensive experience to experiment with new techniques tailored to the needs of the region. He was particularly involved in research aimed at developing the full potential of the Palmyra palm, in collaboration with the Palmyra Development Board. |
| Dr. A. Sivapalan | The late Dr. A. Sivapalan began his academic career as the first Head of the Department of Botany, serving from 1974 to 1977. Renowned for his exceptional teaching skills, particularly in Plant Pathology, Dr. A. Sivapalan laid a strong foundation for future scientific activities at the Department of Botany, University of Jaffna. He authored numerous publications in collaboration with esteemed researchers both locally and internationally. |

Research and Scholarship:

Professional Recognition/Award/Prize/Certificate/Fellowship received

| Name of Award Holder | Name of Award | Awarding Agency | Year |
|---------------------------|---|--|--------------|
| Prof. K. Theivendirarajah | Commonwealth Fellow | University of Cambridge | 1978-1979 |
| Mrs. N. Ravimannan | JNCASR-COSTED Fellowship | CFTRI, Mysore | 2000 |
| Prof. E. C. Jeyaseelan | Commonwealth Scholarship | Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, UK | 2012 -2016 |
| Prof. P. Sevvel | PhD Studentship Award | Queen's University of Belfast, UK. | 2004-2008 |
| | Award for outstanding poster presentation | IBMBB, Colombo | 2010 |
| Dr. (Mrs.) G. Rajkumar | Outstanding poster presentation award at the international conference on frontiers in molecular life sciences. Encouragement award IRRC28 travel grant award: | IBMBB, Colombo | |
| | | UGC, Sri Lanka | 2009 |
| | | Scientific committee of the international congress | 2014 2010 |

Research Interests and Publications

| Name of Staff | No. of Journal Publications in Relevant Research Areas | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|------------------|--------|
| | Biochemistry | Plant Pathology | Molecular Biology / Biotechnology | Molecular Biology / Molecular Bio-chemistry | Microbiology | Plant Physiology | Others |
| Prof. K. Theivendirarajah | 13 | 02 | 04 | - | 06 | - | 08 |
| Dr. A. Sivapalan | - | 04 | - | - | - | - | 04 |
| Prof. E. C. Jeyaseelan | - | 11 | - | - | 14 | - | 02 |
| Dr. (Mrs.) T.C. Jeyaseelan | - | 05 | - | - | 09 | - | - |
| Prof. P. Sevvel | - | - | - | 04 | - | - | - |
| Ms. N. Ravimannan | 01 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Books/Reports/Book Chapters/General Articles, etc.

| Title | Name of Author(s) | Publisher | Year of Publication |
|---|--|---|---------------------|
| Trees of Sri Lanka | P. Sevvil and N. Ravimannan | Andra publishers | 2019 |
| Foodborne diseases and food safety | K. Niranjana | Harikanan Pvt Ltd | 2016 |
| Plant Cell biology: Fundamentals | E.C. Jeyaseelan | Andra publishers | 2022 |
| Plant pathology | E.C. Jeyaseelan | Sangeetha publishers | 2022 |
| Book Chapter: Brinjal (Eggplant) in Viral Diseases of Field and Horticultural Crops | T.C. Jeyaseelan E.C. Jeyaseelan | Academic Press, Elsevier | 2024 |
| Principal weeds of Sri Lanka | N. Ravimannan | Lalitha graphics | 2004 |
| Spices | N. Ravimannan | Saravanah press | 2004 |
| Palmyrah (Borassus flabellifer) Nature's gift for life | D. Asiri Nisansala , G. Piraveena and R. Kapilan | Aarani publishers | 2021 |
| Molecular Biology A practical Manual | Ranganathan Kapilan | Aarani publishers | 2019 |
| Molecular Biology and Genetics | Ranganathan Kapilan | Biranavi publishers | 2018 |
| Plant Tissue Culture | R Kapilan and U Mekala | Aarani publishers | 2018 |
| Transgenic plant - A Practical Approach | Ranganathan Kapilan | Aarani publishers | 2018 |
| Biology of Cell | Ranganathan Kapilan | Aarani publishers | 2016 |
| Biostatistics for Biological Science | Ranganathan Kapilan | Aarani publishers | 2016 |
| Plant aquaporins | Ranganathan Kapilan | Aarani publishers | 2015 |
| Fungal Aquaporins | Ranganathan Kapilan | Aarani publishers | 2015 |
| Biostatistics | Ranganathan Kapilan | Smart publishers | 2008 |
| Applied Microbiology | Ranganathan Kapilan | Jeyasri publishers | 2004 |
| Biosystem technology Grade 12 Text book | P. Sevvil and G. Thirukkumaran. | Educational Publication department, Ministry of Education | 2012 |

Research Projects

| Title of Project | Investigator(s) | Project Period | Funding Agency | Amount Million LKR |
|---|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Study on Latex composition and sap burn injury of different varieties of mangoes | Dr. (Ms.) N. Krishnapillai | 2010 - 2011 | NSF Grant | 2.0 |
| Studies on postharvest treatments of Willard and Karuthakolumban Mangoes (Mangifera indica L.) in Jaffna. | Dr. (Ms.) N. Krishnapillai | 2009 - 2011 | NRC Grant | 2.9 |
| Molecular characterization of begomoviruses infecting okra varieties grown in different locations in Sri Lanka and development of effective and eco-friendly approaches for its management. | Dr. (Mrs.) T.C. Jeyaseelan | 2015 | UGC Grant | 1.1 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|------|--|-----|
| Bioethanol production from marine alga | Dr. A. Vengadaramana and Prof. R. Kapilan | 2019 | National Research Council of Sri Lanka | 3.7 |
| Identification and characterization of major pathogens in grape cultivation and improving the grape production by managing major diseases through ecofriendly control measure | Prof. E. C. Jeyaseelan | 2021 | National Research Council of Sri Lanka | 5.0 |

Research Collaborations

| Name of Staff | Collaborating Institution |
|---|--|
| Prof. P. Sevel and Prof. A.C. Thavaranjit | National water supply and drainage board |
| Prof. E.C. Jeyaseelan | Palmyra Research Institute, Sri Lanka |

Challenges:

The department experienced significant growth in teaching and research during its early years, reaching its peak in the late 1980s. However, the civil war led to the migration or departure of nearly all prominent staff members, creating a severe shortage of faculty and temporarily halting special degree programs. During this period, the department also lost some of its infrastructural facilities. For over six years, the department was administered by the Dean of Science or staff from other departments. In response, young probationary staff members were recruited urgently, and were required to complete their postgraduate studies swiftly and took on the task of revitalizing the department. Despite numerous challenges, the department has continued to make substantial contributions to teaching, research, and outreach activities.

Future Directions:

The department accommodates approximately 100 students annually for the Bachelor of Science degree, 15 to 20 students pursuing Honours Degrees, and 4 to 6 postgraduate research students. Additionally,

undergraduate research students from other departments and faculties also utilize the department's facilities for their research projects. The Department of Botany is well-equipped with substantial infrastructure, including two large laboratories for undergraduate practicals, specialized research labs for both undergraduate and postgraduate students, and field-specific facilities such as Molecular Biology, Microbiology, and Tissue Culture labs. Additionally, the department boasts its own library, herbarium collection, and a garden with a glasshouse. Recently, the Molecular Biology lab has been furnished with new equipment funded by staff grants and departmental allocations. However, some laboratories still face challenges due to insufficient funds for equipment, such as spectrophotometers, air conditioners for the Molecular Biology and Tissue Culture labs, and advanced microscopes. To address these issues, future upgrades are planned, contingent on securing funds from various sources. The department also aims to enhance its research capabilities through collaborative projects with national and international institutions. Furthermore, a herbal garden, initiated with the help of BIOSOC, now features over 50 medicinal plants, with ongoing efforts to label them appropriately.

Heads of the Department of Botany since 1975



Dr. A. Sivapalan
1975 - 1977



K. Theivendirarajah
1978 -1986
1989 - 1991



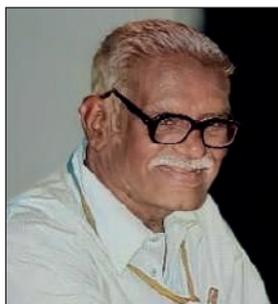
Dr. S. Kandiah
1986-1989



Mrs. A. P. Arudchandran
1991 - 1992



Prof. K. Chitravadivelu
1992 - 1996
1997 - 1998



Prof. K. Ganeshalingam
1996 - 1997



Prof. R. Kumaravadivel
1997



Mrs. N. Ravimannan
1998 - April 2011



Mrs. K. Niranjana
May 2011 - May 2017



Prof. P. Sevel
May 2017 -
August 2020



Prof. R. Kapilan
August 2020 -
October 2022



Prof. E. C. Jeyaseelan
October 2022 to date

Staff Profile – Department of Botany

Academic Staff



Prof. R. Kapilan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Jaffna)
PhD (Alberta, Canada)
Professor



Mrs. K. Niranjan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. P. Sevel
BSc (Madras, India)
MSc (Madras, India)
PhD (Belfast, UK)
Professor



Dr. (Ms). N. Krishnapillai
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Peradeniya)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. E. C. Jeyaseelan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Reading, UK)
Professor



Dr. (Mrs). G. Rajkumar
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Colombo)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. A. C. Thavaranjit
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (Kelaniya)
Associate Professor



Dr. A. Vengadramana
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Jaffna)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Mrs. N. Ravimannan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Dr. (Mrs). T. Jeyaseelan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer

Support Staff



Mr. P.T.J. Jashothan
Staff Technical Officer



Mr. A.N. Jeevanarajah
Staff Technical Officer



Mr. K. Jeyakumar
Staff Technical Officer



Ms. M. Sivabalasunthar
Staff Technical Officer



Mr. T. Jalagoban
Technical Officer



Mr. K. Pushpartnam
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. B. Ragulan
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. K. Vijayakumar
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. K. Kirubananthan
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. K. Suren
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. T.K. Jeyakumar
Works Aide



Mr. A. Vijenthiran
Works Aide

Department of Chemistry

University of Jaffna

1. Foundation and Establishment

The Department of Chemistry of the then Jaffna Campus of University of Sri Lanka was founded by taking over the Undergraduate Section of Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai and absorbing three of its staff members, two Assistant Lecturers (Mr. K. Kumaraswamy and Mr. S. Kandiah) and one Laboratory Attendant (Mr. S. Selvarajah), in October 1974. Dr. S. Mageswaran joined the Department of Chemistry as the Founding Head on 19 May 1975, after serving at the then Peradeniya Campus of University of Sri Lanka from 1966-1975. The Department of Chemistry was functioning at the Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai from 1975 to 1978 with limited physical resources, such as inadequate laboratory space, lack of necessary equipment and consumables (glassware and chemicals) and scarce gas supply as well as inadequacy in the provision of staff cadres.

2. Evolution and Growth

In 1978, the Department of Chemistry was shifted to its present location at the Thirunelvely premises and was temporarily housed in the Natural Science Block. The shifting of the department eased the space problem to a certain extent, but not completely. The department functioned in make-shift laboratories in the Natural Science Block and Physics Block without the basic facilities like fume hoods, rooms for keeping the instruments and storing chemicals and staff rooms. Construction of the Chemistry Block commenced in January 1980. The Department of Chemistry was shifted to the Chemistry Block in 1984 soon after the completion of the ground floor of the building. The department lost one of its dedicated staff members, Mr. M. Ariyaratnam (Staff Technical Officer) on 27 October 1987. In addition to his untimely demise due to shelling, the department suffered heavy damage to the Chemistry Block and loss of properties as a result of the turmoil in the region from October-December 1987. Many equipment, glassware and furniture were either lost or damaged beyond repair and certain portions of the Chemistry Block were destroyed as a

result of shelling and bombing. Hence, the following year was a period for repairs and rehabilitation to the department. The Chemistry Block was handed over to the department in late 1988 after repairing the destroyed portions of the Chemistry Block and completing the balance construction work of the building. The Department of Chemistry recommenced its functions in the same year in the Chemistry Block, the building with state of the art lecture halls and laboratories. The Chemistry Block was again severely damaged during the mass exodus from 1995-1996 and almost all the office and laboratory equipment, glassware, chemicals, books and many official records were lost. While the department was slowly restoring its activities on return of the staff members after 1996, Professor S. Mageswaran (the founding Head of the Department of Chemistry) died on 2 February 1998 due to illness. His untimely demise was an irreparable loss to the department and in recognition of his dedicated service the Chemistry Block was named as “*Mageswaran Block*” on 28 March 1998 and memorial lectures have been organised annually since 1999.

During the millennium era, the Department of Chemistry benefitted from three mega projects of the World Bank, namely IRQUE project, HETC project and AHEAD Operation. In 2005, a competitive Quality Enhancement Fund (QEF) of Rs. 77.3 Million was awarded to study programmes in the physical science stream under the IRQUE project. In 2012, another competitive Quality and Innovation Grant (QIG) of Rs. 50 Million was won by the study programmes in the physical science stream under the HETC project. In 2019, the Department of Chemistry secured Rs. 15 Million funding through Enriching Learning, Teaching, Assessment and English Language Skills Enhancement Development Project (ELTA-ELSE DP) under the AHEAD Operation. In addition, the department benefitted from the ELTA-ELSE DP awarded to the Faculty of Science and the Development Oriented Research (DOR) grant awarded to the research team headed by

Prof. K. Vignarooban, Department of Physics. The above projects immensely helped the department to enrich the teaching-learning and assessment processes; improve the learning resources and student support services; uplift the soft and hard skills of students; and enhance research, innovation and community engagement.

3. Strength and Quality of Staff

The Department of Chemistry commenced its

academic journey in 1975 under the able leadership of Dr. S. Mageswaran. The history of recruitment of academics and their periods of service at the Department of Chemistry highlights the department's commitment to academic excellence and its continuous efforts to attract and retain a diverse and talented pool of academics, despite the challenges of brain drain due to the civil unrest that prevailed until 2009.

| Name | From | | To | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | Designation | Year | Year | Designation |
| K. Kumaraswamy | Assistant Lecturer | October 1974 | 1978 | Assistant Lecturer |
| S. Kandiah | Assistant Lecturer | October 1974 | July 1990 | Lecturer |
| S. Mageswaran | Lecturer | May 1975 | February 1998 | Senior Professor of Chemistry |
| R. Mageswaran | Lecturer | April 1976 | September 2010 | Senior Professor of Inorganic Chemistry |
| V. Pasupathy | Lecturer | July 1978 | April 1989 | Senior Lecturer |
| P. Thurairajan | Professor of Chemistry | August 1978 | 1979 | Professor of Chemistry |
| V. Manivannan | Assistant Lecturer | 1979 | 1984 | Assistant Lecturer |
| V. Sridharan | Assistant Lecturer | 1979 | 1984 | Assistant Lecturer |
| S. Karunanithy | Assistant Lecturer | 1979 | 1984 | Assistant Lecturer |
| V. Panchalingam | Assistant Lecturer | 1979 | 1984 | Assistant Lecturer |
| V. Balakrishnan | Assistant Lecturer | 1979 | 1984 | Assistant Lecturer |
| N. Sivapalan | Assistant Lecturer Senior Lecturer | November 1980 February 2007 | June 2003 October 2022 | Senior Lecturer Senior Lecturer |
| M. V. Jesudason | Senior Lecturer | 1981 | 1986 | Senior Lecturer |
| V. Arkley | Senior Lecturer | 1981 | 1984 | Senior Lecturer |
| K. Somasundaram | Assistant Lecturer | November 1982 | December 1996 | Senior Lecturer |
| S. Sathiyabalan (nee S. Sivapalan) | Assistant Lecturer | September 1985 | 1996 | Senior Lecturer |
| R. Rajaratnam | Assistant Lecturer | 1985 | 1988 | Assistant lecturer |
| T. J. Lewis | Assistant Lecturer | 1985 | 1988 | Assistant Lecturer |
| S. Mohanadas | Senior Lecturer | June 1986 | May 1990 | Senior Lecturer |
| S. Saminathan | Assistant Lecturer | April 1989 | September 1999 | Senior Lecturer |
| J. Ratnam | Assistant Lecturer | April 1989 | 1993 | Assistant Lecturer |
| M. A. Gnanarajan | Assistant Lecturer | April 1989 | 1995 | Senior Lecturer |
| T. Ravishanker | Assistant Lecturer | January 1990 | March 1996 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| J. Nadarajah | Assistant Lecturer | May 1991 | November 1995 | Assistant Lecturer |
| S. Muhunthan | Assistant Lecturer | May 1991 | August 1996 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| T. Sothyuban | Lecturer (Prob) | November 1993 | November 2001 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| K. Ponnampalam | Lecturer (Prob) | November 1993 | August 1998 | Lecturer |
| V. Sarveswaran | Lecturer (Prob) | November 1993 | August 1998 | Lecturer |
| M. Senthilnathanan | Lecturer (Prob) | October 1994 | To date | Professor of Chemistry |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| S. Sangaralingam | Lecturer (Prob) | October 1994 | April 1999 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| N. Arumugam | Lecturer (Prob) | October 1994 | May 1997 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| R. Srikanan | Lecturer (Prob) | December 1996 | To date | Professor |
| R. Prabakaran | Lecturer (Prob) | December 1996 | December 2002 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| J. P. Jeyadevan | Lecturer (Prob) | December 1997 | To date | Professor |
| S. Somasundaram | Lecturer (Prob) | December 1997 | July 2002 | Lecturer |
| K. Arulraj | Lecturer (Prob) | June 1998 | February 2004 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| T. Manoranjan | Lecturer (Prob) | October 1999 | To date | Senior Lecturer |
| J. Prabagar (nee J. Thiyagarajah) | Lecturer (Prob) | March 2001 | To date | Senior Lecturer |
| A. Ragavan | Lecturer (Prob) | March 2001 | October 2007 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| N. Kuganathan | Lecturer (Prob) | September 2002 | November 2008 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| P. Iyngaran | Lecturer (Prob) | October 2002 | To date | Professor |
| P. Abiman | Lecturer (Prob) | October 2002 | To date | Professor |
| K. Velauthamurty | Lecturer (Prob) | April 2005 | To date | Professor |
| M. Anushya | Lecturer (Prob) | April 2005 | May 2006 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| G. Sashikesh | Lecturer (Prob) | August 2007 | To date | Professor |
| S. Rathiga | Lecturer (Prob) | November 2008 | To date | Senior Lecturer |
| S. Yohi (nee S. Rasalingam) | Lecturer (Prob) | May 2010 | To date | Senior Lecturer |
| S. Selvakumar (nee S.Nagenthiran) | Lecturer (Prob) | May 2010 | To date | Senior Lecturer |
| A. Manjeevan | Lecturer (Prob) | August 2020 | To date | Senior Lecturer |
| R. Praveena | Lecturer (Prob) | February 2022 | June 2023 | Lecturer (Prob) |
| S. Raveena | Lecturer (Prob) | February 2022 | April 2023 | Lecturer (Prob) |

At this juncture, it is noteworthy to mention the invaluable assistance extended by the dedicated non-academics (listed below) and academic support staff for the smooth operation of the

department. These individuals have played a crucial role in maintaining a conducive environment in the department for academic, research and outreach activities.

| Name | From | | To | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| | Designation | Year | Year | Designation |
| S. Selvarajah | Laboratory Attendant | October 1974 | October 2003 | Staff Technical Officer |
| K. Karunanantharajah | Technical Officer | June 1975 | August 2003 | Senior Staff Technical Officer |
| P. Jeyaratnam | Laboratory Attendant | July 1976 | November 2008 | Staff Technical Officer |
| S. Pathmanathan | Laboratory Attendant | 1976 | 1978 | Laboratory Attendant |
| M. Yogendran | Laboratory Attendant | 1976 | 2012 | Laboratory Attendant |
| P. Paranthaman | Technical Officer | 1977 | 1978 | Technical Officer |
| M. Mahaluxmy | Clerk | 1977 | 1978 | Clerk |
| J. C. Edward | Technical Officer | 1977 | 1978 | Technical Officer |
| M. Ariyaratnam | Technical Officer | 1977 | 1987 | Staff Technical Officer |
| A. Selvaratnam | Laboratory Attendant | December 1978 | March 2010 | Laboratory Attendant |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| N. Selvasingam | Laboratory Attendant | March 1983 | March 2017 | Laboratory Attendant |
| S. Chandrasegaram | Laboratory Attendant | July 1983 | November 2014 | Laboratory Attendant |
| I. Navaratnarajah | Laboratory Attendant | January 1984 | May 2010 | Laboratory Attendant |
| K. Kumarathasan | Technical Officer | April 1984 | December 1998 | Technical Officer |
| N. Gnanakumaran | Laboratory Technician | June 1984 | 1997 | Technical Officer |
| N. Nagenthiran | Labourer (Temp) | September 1985 | June 1998 | Labourer |
| K. Baskaran | Laboratory Attendant | 1978 | 1987 | Laboratory Attendant |
| N. Vijayaratnam | Laboratory Attendant | February 1989 | January 2014 | Laboratory Attendant |
| A. Lakshman | Technical Officer | February 1990 | To date | Staff Technical Officer |
| R.Gnanakumaran | Clerk | May 1991 | 1997 | Clerk |
| P. Uthayakumar | Labourer | May 1993 | December 2021 | Labourer |
| A. Thaneeswaran | Laboratory Attendant | November 1993 | August 2023 | Laboratory Attendant |
| S. Nanthakumar | Laboratory Attendant | November 1993 | February 2024 | Laboratory Attendant |
| P. Saravanapavananthan | Laboratory Attendant | November 1994 | July 2006 | Technical Officer |
| K. V. Raveenthirarajah | Technical Officer | May 1997 | June 2013 | Technical Officer |
| A. Thanikasalam | Labourer | July 1998 | November 1999 | Labourer |
| M. Mukunthakumar | Technical Officer | August 1998 | February 2009 | Technical Officer |
| S. Sivalingam | Labourer | August 1999 | May 2023 | Labourer |
| S. Sabaratnam | Clerk | September 1999 | January 2008 | Senior Staff Assistant |
| A. Thabesan | Technical Officer | December 2004 | To date | Staff Technical Officer |
| N. Nayantha | Technical Officer | December 2004 | To date | Staff Technical Officer |
| M. Velauthampillai | Laboratory Attendant | July 2007 | March 2008 | Laboratory Attendant |
| S. Umamageswary | Computer Applications Assistant | April 2009 | April 2013 | Computer Applications Assistant |
| S. Satheesan | Technical Officer | November 2009 | To date | Technical Officer |
| A. Saijuchijan | Laboratory Attendant | October 2011 | January 2016 | Technical Officer |
| G. Kasipillai | Technical Officer | October 2011 | January 2019 | Technical Officer |
| P. Pewton | Computer Applications Assistant | April 2014 | June 2018 | Computer Applications Assistant |
| V. Thanushan | Labourer | November 2014 | June 2015 | Labourer |
| P. Vijendran | Labourer | November 2014 | June 2015 | Labourer |
| G. Senthilnathan | Technical Officer | June 2015 | To date | Technical Officer |
| K. Aravinth | Laboratory Attendant | June 2015 | To date | Laboratory Attendant |
| R. Kartheepan | Laboratory Attendant | June 2015 | March 2021 | Technical Officer |
| K. Ithayakumaran | Laboratory Attendant | June 2015 | To date | Technical Officer |
| W.J. Abiyooth | Laboratory Attendant | June 2015 | To date | Laboratory Attendant |
| R. Arunpirasath | Laboratory Attendant | June 2015 | To date | Laboratory Attendant |
| S. Thivas | Laboratory Attendant | May 2017 | To date | Laboratory Attendant |
| M. Chithirangan | Management Assistant | June 2018 | To date | Management Assistant |
| N. Manoranjan | Laboratory Attendant | September 2018 | November 2021 | Technical Officer |
| R. Senthooran | Technical Officer | February 2020 | To date | Technical Officer |

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------|---------|----------------------|
| T. Kogularaj | Laboratory Attendant | August 2021 | To date | Laboratory Attendant |
| M. Sasikaran | Laboratory Attendant | May 2023 | To date | Laboratory Attendant |
| S. Thaneshan | Laboratory Attendant | May 2023 | To date | Laboratory Attendant |
| E. Donaldon | Laboratory Attendant | May 2023 | To date | Laboratory Attendant |

At this juncture, it is noteworthy to mention the invaluable assistance extended by the dedicated non-academics and academic support staff for the smooth operation of the department. These individuals have played a crucial role in maintaining a conducive environment in the department for academic, research and outreach activities.

4. Academic Programmes

In 1975, the University Grants Commission sent the first batch of students to the Faculty of Science to undertake the BSc study programme with Chemistry as one of the subjects. The curriculum consisted of course units and the students were assessed at the end of each academic year. Only 27 students were allowed to offer Chemistry in the first batch due to the acute shortage of physical resources, such as laboratory space, necessary equipment and consumables (glassware and chemicals) and inadequate gas supply at the Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai. The BSc with specialisation in Chemistry degree programme was introduced in 1977 and only five out of the 27 students in the first batch were selected. In 1985, the structure of degree programmes saw a transformation with the introduction of the semester system, prompting revisions in the curriculum, syllabus, and examination regulations. This shift was part of a broader trend towards modernization of the higher education system. By 1993, further curriculum updates were introduced. Subsequently, the Faculty of Science moved to a credit-valued modularized course unit system under the early 2000 reforms which brought flexibility and avenue to introduce principal subjects; core, elective, auxiliary and supplementary courses; inter-faculty courses; and facility for joint honours degrees, etc. During the above curriculum revisions, more attention was given to the structure of the degree programmes and evaluation processes in line with national and international trends. During the period from 2013-2015, the Chemistry curriculum was revised with substantial improvements by incorporating modern laboratory-based investigations in practical courses and ICT based assignments to meet the ever-changing

challenges of the job market and industries. In 2020, the curriculum of BScHons in Chemistry study programme was further updated by introducing action projects and industrial training. These efforts have significantly enhanced the educational experience of students.

Currently, the Department of Chemistry offers two 4-year degree programmes, namely BScHons in Chemistry and BScHons in Applied Science degree programmes. Additionally, the department contributes to the 3-year BSc degree programme of the Faculty of Science by offering Chemistry as a subject. Initially, students are admitted by the University Grants Commission to follow the 3-year BSc study programme and if they have offered Chemistry as a subject in the first two years, they will be considered for the said two 4-year study programmes. The selection for BScHons in Chemistry study programme is done at the end of second year based on the students' performance in the first four semesters. Similarly, students are selected to pursue BScHons in Applied Science study programme at the end of third year based on their performance in the first five semesters. The number of students enrolling to the BSc study programme has gradually increased over the years and at present a total of 350 students are offering Chemistry as a subject at BSc degree level; 25 students are pursuing BScHons in Chemistry study programme; and another 25 are following BScHons in Applied Science degree programme.

5. Contribution to Research and Scholarship

5.1 Research Interests

Since the inception of the Department of Chemistry, the staff members have been engaged in research activities in the fields of synthetic organic chemistry, natural products chemistry, analytical chemistry, physical organic chemistry and theoretical chemistry in spite of their heavy teaching workload and limited research facilities. The research focuses of the current staff members, resulting in scholarly publications in

high impact journals and contributing to the national development, are Natural Products, Nanomaterials and Energy Applications, Nanomaterials and Environment related Applications, Hydrochemistry Materials, Macromolecular Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Health related Research and Computational Chemistry

5.2 Postgraduate Research Supervision / Co-supervision by Current Staff Members

Prof. (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan has supervised or co-supervised students for PhD, MPhil, and MSc degrees, having completed the supervision of three MPhil and four MSc students with one PhD, one MPhil, and one MSc students are currently reading for their degrees. Prof. J.P. Jeyadevan has successfully supervised one MPhil student. Prof. K. Velauthamurthy has successfully supervised five MSc students and three MPhil students are currently reading for their degrees. Prof. P. Abiman successfully supervised one MPhil student. Prof. R. Srikanan has guided three MEd students to completion. Prof. G. Sashikesh has overseen the completion of three MSc students and

two MPhil students are currently being guided by him. Prof. P. Iyngaran has successfully supervised one MPhil and one MSc students. Dr. (Mrs.) J. Prabagar has guided two MSc students to completion and two MPhil students are currently being guided by her. Dr. (Mrs.) S. Yohi has supervised two MSc and one MPhil students and one PhD student is currently reading for her degree.

5.3 Research Collaborations

The department's research capabilities have been significantly enhanced through collaborations with prestigious institutions worldwide. In the mid-1980s, Prof. (Mrs.) R. Mageswaran and Dr. M. V. Jesudason established collaborations with research scholars at the University of Liverpool and University of Leeds in the United Kingdom respectively. Presently, individual staff members have engaged in collaborative research with eminent scholars nationally as well as internationally. These partnerships have facilitated joint publications and resource sharing, significantly advancing the department's research profile.

| Name of Staff | Name of Collaborator | Collaborating Institution |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Prof. (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan | Prof. S. Vigneswaran Prof. V. Dhayalan Prof. Balraju Palanisamy Dr. G.R.A. Kumara Dr. S. Srivijendran Mr. S. Sarawanan | University of Technology Sydney, Australia Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway Coimbatore Institute of Technology, India National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy Palmyrah Research Institute, Jaffna National Water Supply & Drainage Board, Jaffna |
| Prof. K. Velauthamurthy | Prof. R.M.G. Rajapaksae Dr. S. Srivijendran | University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya Palmyrah Research Institute, Jaffna |
| Prof. P. Abiman | Dr. N. Kuganathan | Imperial College London, UK |
| Prof. R. Srikanan | Prof. Alan C. Spivey Prof. Muralee Murugesu | Imperial College, UK University of Ottawa, Canada |
| Prof. G. Sashikesh | Dr. Nabanita Deb Prof. Sayan Chatterjee Dr. N. Kuganathan Prof. T.P. Softley | Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, India Jadavpur University, India Imperial College London, UK University of Oxford, UK |
| Prof. P. Iyngaran | Dr. N. Kuganathan | Imperial College London, UK |
| Dr. T. Manoranjan | Prof. Alexander Chroneos Dr. N. Kuganathan | University of Coventry, UK Imperial College London, UK |
| Dr. (Mrs.) J. Prabagar | Dr. Uthpala Apekshani Jayawardena Dr. R.C.L. De Silva Dr. S. Prabagar Ms. Sujanja Thuraisingam | Open University of Sri Lanka University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya Industrial Technology Institute, Colombo Palmyrah Research Institute, Jaffna |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Dr. (Mrs.) S. Yohi | Prof. R. Koodali Prof. Z. Wang Prof. V. Dhayalan Dr. N. Balakrishnan Dr. R. Yuvakkumar Dr. T. Maiyalagan | University of South Dakota, USA University of South Dakota, USA Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway. Keele University, UK Alagappa University, India SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, India |
| Dr. A. Manjceevan | Prof. J.M.S. Bandara Dr. T. Maiyalagan | National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, India |

5.4 Research Grants

The staff members have been securing competitive research grants at both national and international levels and conducting extensive research studies.

Research Grants won by Current Staff Members

Professor (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan

- Rs. 0.8 Million from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “An assessment of water quality on source waters and treated waters of RO plants: A study on the Jaffna premises of the University of Jaffna” carried out from 2022 to 2023; served as co-investigator
- Rs. 5.0 Million from National Research Council of Sri Lanka for the research project entitled “Selected Transition metals and Nitrogen co-doped TiO₂ electrode for DSSCs” being carried out since 2021; serving as principal investigator
- Rs. 0.8 Million from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “Investigating the extent of pollution and pollution sources in the Jaffna lagoon of Sri Lanka” carried out from 2018 to 2019; served as principal investigator
- Rs. 0.8 Million from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “Cost effective removal of synthetic organics and heavy metals from pesticides in aqueous phase using TiO₂ loaded graphene oxide: A synergistic effect of adsorption and degradation” carried out from 2017 to 2018; served as co-investigator
- Rs. 2.0 Million from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “Bioconversion of organic waste and sustainable use of insects to produce animal feed: An eco-friendly industrial approach” carried out from 2016 to 2018; served as co-investigator
- Rs. 2.05 Million from International Union for Conservation of Nature, Switzerland for the

research project entitled “Development of the Socio-ecological profile of Jaffna lagoon” carried out from 2014 to 2015; served as principal investigator

- Rs. 0.23 Million from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “Utilizing a novel dye in Solid-state Dye-sensitized Solar Cell for improving its performance” carried out from 2012 to 2013; served as principal investigator
- Rs. 0.15 Million from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “Natural dyes as Photosensitizers for Dye-sensitized Solid-state Solar Cell” carried out from 2007 to 2008; served as principal investigator

Professor. J. P. Jeyadevan

- Rs. 2,399,197 from National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka for the research project entitled “Isolation and characterization of novel anti-bacterial and anti-dipterans lead molecules from medicinal plants” carried out in 2006; served as co-investigator
- Rs.100,000 from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “Antifungal activity and phytochemical analysis of Lantana camera, Mangiferaindica and Cassia alata” carried out in 2007
- Rs. 1,705,321 from National Research Council, Sri Lanka for the research project entitled “Isolation and structure elucidation of new antifungal compounds from plant sources” carried out in 2009

Professor K. Velauthamurthy

- Rs. 100,000 from the Ministry of Small Scale Industries through Palmyrah Research Institute for the research project entitled “Improve and standardize the quality of Palmyrah jaggery” carried out from 2013 to 2014

Professor. P. Abiman

- Grant from National Research Council, Sri Lanka for the research project on “Modification of Carbon Surfaces using Organic Substrates for Advanced Materials and Heavy Metals Uptake” carried out from 2012 to 2017; served as primary investigator

Professor R. Srikanan

- Scientific Research Grant for a research project carried out in 2005

Professor G. Sashikesh

- Rs. 0.6 Million from University of Jaffna for the research project on “Green synthesis of Nano-bio-pesticide against plant diseases in plant protection” carried out from 2021 to 2022; served as co-investigator
- Rs. 161,500 from UBL of University of Jaffna for the research project on “Development of Cellulose Nano Crystal (CNC) reinforced Bio-nanocomposite by employing Poly Lactic Acid (PLA), Polyhydroxy butyrate (PHB) and Thermoplastic Starch (TPS)” carried out from 2021 to 2023; served as co-investigator
- Rs. 798,840 from University of Jaffna for the research project on “Catalytic/Photocatalytic Removal of Pollutant by Piezoelectric CuBi_2O_4 Material” carried out from 2021 to 2022; served as co-investigator
- Rs. 40 Million from DOR-STEM Project under the AHEAD Operation for the research project on “Development of Novel Electrolyte and Electrode Materials for Secondary Sodium ion and Magnesium ion Batteries” carried out from 2019 to 2022; served as co-investigator
- Conference Travel Grant from University of Jaffna to present research paper at an International Conference in India in 2019
- Rs. 799,600 from University of Jaffna for the research project on “Adsorption of a selected pesticide from the groundwater near agricultural area in Jaffna Peninsula using the Palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer*) kernel shell activated charcoal” carried out from 2018 to 2019

- Rs. 499,750 from University of Jaffna for the research project on “Analysis of nutritional values of haustorium of Palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer*) seed and introduce the new haustorium product into the global market” carried out from 2015 to 2017; served as principal investigator
- Rs. 499,900 from University of Jaffna for the research project on “Visible light induced hydrogen production using dye sensitized TiO_2 materials: A comparison between natural and synthetic dyes” carried out from 2015 to 2016; served as co-investigator

Professor P. Iyngaran

- Grant from National Research Council, Sri Lanka for the research project on “Modification of Carbon Surfaces using Organic Substrates for Advanced Materials and Heavy Metals Uptake” carried out from 2012 to 2017; served as co-supervisor
- Grant to meet the student’s maintenance cost from WaSo project for the research project on “Green synthesis of silver nanoparticles from leaves and seeds of *Moringa oleifera* and its photocatalytic and antimicrobial activities”; served as supervisor
- Grant from University of Jaffna for a research project on “Removal of heavy metal using Carbon-based material” carried out in 2021; served as Co-investigator.

Dr. (Mrs.) J. Prabagar

- Rs. 990,600 from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “Impact of water quality parameters on Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown etiology (CKDu): A quantitative study using selected well water samples in Northern Province”, 2016; served as principal investigator
- Rs. 0.5 Million from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “Efficiency of bacterial degradation on used oil contaminated sites”, 2015; served as principal investigator

Dr. (Mrs.) R. Senthoran

- Evans fund from University of Canterbury, New Zealand to participate in the 8th Australasian Symposium on Ionic liquids in Australia in 2018.

Dr. (Mrs.) S. Yohi

- Travel Grant of Rs. 9,000 from University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka to present research

paper at the International Conference Solar Asia in Kandy in 2018

- Travel Grant of Rs. 75,000 from University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka to present research paper at the International Conference on Nano Science and Technology in Japan in 2017
- Rs. 0.8 Million from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “Improving charge transport in hybrid $\text{TiO}_2/\text{P3HT}$ solar cells using novel Ruthenium-based dyes as interface modifiers” carried out in 2017; served as co-investigator
- Rs. 0.8 Million from University of Jaffna for the research project entitled “Cost-effective removal of synthetic organics (SOCs) and heavy metals from pesticides in aqueous phase using TiO_2 loaded graphene oxide: A synergistic effect of adsorption and degradation” carried out in 2017; served as principal investigator
- Travel Grant of Rs. 20,000 from University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka to present research paper at the International Conference on NanoScience and NanoTechnology in Colombo in 2016.
- Travel Grant of Rs. 100, 000 from University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka to present research paper at the International Conference on Nano Science and Technology in Singapore in 2016
- Rs. 499,900 from University of Jaffna for the research project on “Visible light induced hydrogen production using dye sensitized TiO_2 materials: A comparison between natural and synthetic dyes” carried out from 2015 to 2016; served as principal investigator
- Grant from University of South Dakota for the research project on “Facile Method for the Preparation of Cobalt Titanate (CoTiO_3) Nanomaterials: Effective Photocatalysts for Solar Energy Conversion” carried out from 2014 to 2015
- Grant from University of South Dakota for the research project on “Photocatalytic degradation of phenol over titania-silica mixed oxide materials” carried out from 2012 to 2013

Dr. (Mrs.) S. Selvakumar

- Grant from University of Jaffna for a research project carried out in 2021

Dr. A. Manjceevan

- Rs. 798,840 from University of Jaffna for the research project on “Catalytic/Photocatalytic Removal of Pollutant by Piezoelectric CuBi_2O_4 Material” carried out from 2021 to 2022; served as principal investigator
- Rs. 0.4 Million from South Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the research project on “Synthesis and Characterization of Quantum Dots to Degradation of the Organic Pollutants” carried out from 2018 to 2020

5.5 Patent

A patent titled “*UV Decomposable Molecules and a Photopatternable Monomolecular Film formed there from*” was awarded on 20 January 2009, under Patent No. US 7479,362 B2 in the United States. The patent was granted to multiple applicants, including Hitoshi Fukushima, Hiroshi Takiguchi, Tatsuya Shimoda, Takashi Masuda, Richard James Bushby, Stephan Evans, J P Jeyadevan, and Kevin Critchley.

5.6 Research Awards, Fellowships and Scholarships

The academics of the Department of Chemistry have been recognised nationally and internationally for their research excellence, and have garnered numerous prestigious research awards, including President’s Awards and NRC Merit Awards for scientific publications, fellowships and scholarships.

Research Awards received by Current Staff Members

Professor (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan

- SUSRED Award for supervision of MPhil research on “Storage of solar energy by heterostructured Carbon/Silver-Metal oxides/Tin sulphide photocapacitors”, awarded by National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka in 2023
- SUSRED Award for supervision of MPhil research on “Enhancing the performance of Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells through doping / co-doping TiO_2 electrodes”, awarded by National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka in 2023
- Merit Award for scientific publication, awarded by National Research Council, Sri Lanka in 2012

Professor K. Velauthamurthy

- President’s Awards for scientific publication, awarded by the Government of Sri Lanka in 2009 and 2010.

- Best solution oriented Thesis Award for supervision of the research project, awarded by the University of Jaffna in 2016
- Best Academic Researcher Award, awarded by the Association of Scientist's Developers and Faculties, India in 2015

Prof. R. Srikanan

- First Prize in the poster competition, awarded at the EPSRC/GSK Combinatorial Chemistry Dissemination Events held at Stevanage, UK in 2001
- Merit Award for scientific publication in SYNLETT, awarded by National Research Council, Sri Lanka in 2013.

Prof. G. Sashikesh

- Excellence in Reviewing Award in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the quality of Open Science Journal in 2019
- Merit Award for scientific research publication, awarded by National Research Council, Sri Lanka in 2021
- Merit Award for inter-university chemistry competition, awarded by Royal Society of Chemistry, Sri Lanka in 2006

Professor P. Iyngaran

- Merit Award for scientific research publications, awarded by National Research Council, Sri Lanka in 2021

Dr. (Mrs.) J. Prabagar

- Best solution oriented Thesis Award for supervision of the research project on "Micro remediation of used oil (petroleum hydrocarbon) contaminated groundwater", awarded by University of Jaffna in 2016

Dr. (Mrs.) S. Yohi

- Student Honorary Award, awarded by International Precious Metals Institute in 2014
- Finalist in the national graduate student poster competition held at the Women in Clean Energy Symposium, awarded by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Campus in 2013.
- Young Scientist Award, awarded at the International Conference on Chemical Sciences

held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2012.

- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, awarded by University of South Dakota, USA in 2011 and 2012.

Dr. (Mrs.) S. Selvakumar

- Best Presentation Award, awarded at the International Conference on Nano Science and Technology in 2016

Dr. A. Manjceevan

- Presidential Award for scientific research publication, awarded by the Government of Sri Lanka in 2018
- Merit Awards for scientific research publications, awarded by National Research Council, Sri Lanka in 2019 and 2021

Research Fellowships received by Current Staff Members

Professor (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan

- Australia Awards Fellowship to acquire training on sustainable groundwater management through integrated water management hosted by the International Water Centre, Australia, from Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Australia in 2016.
- Endeavour Research Fellowship to undertake a postdoctoral research programme at the University of Technology Sydney, Australia, from Department of Education, Science & Training, Australia in 2008.
- ACU Titular Fellowship to undertake a postdoctoral research programme at the University of Oxford, UK, from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK in 2008.

Prof. G. Sashikesh

- Post-doctoral Fellowship to acquire training on strategic planning, academic development and research collaboration at University of Bergen, Norway under the Water and Society project in 2019

Professor P. Iyngaran

- Post-doctoral Fellowship to acquire training on strategic planning, academic development and

Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

research collaboration at University of Bergen, Norway under the Water and Society project in 2019

Dr. (Mrs.) S. Yohi

- Post-doctoral Research Assistantship from University of South Dakota, USA from 2021 to 2022

Scholarships received by Current Staff Members

Professor (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan

- Overseas Research Students Award and Tetley and Lupton Scholarship to pursue PhD degree at the University of Leeds, UK from 1996 to 2000

Professor J.P. Jeyadevan

- Overseas Research Students Award to pursue PhD degree at the University of Liverpool, UK from 1999 to 2003

Professor K. Velauthamurthy

- Scholarship to pursue split PhD degree between University of Liverpool, UK and University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka from 2006 to 2010 under the IRQUE project funded by World Bank

Professor P. Abiman

- Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Award to pursue PhD degree at the University of Oxford, UK from 2005 to 2009

Professor R. Srikanan

- Overseas Research Students Award to pursue PhD degree at the University of Sheffield, UK from 1998 to 2002

Professor G. Sashikesh

- Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scholarship, awarded by the Government of India in 2019
- Perkin Research Studentship and Clarendon Scholarship to pursue PhD degree at the University of Oxford, UK from 2007 to 2011

Professor P. Iyngaran

- Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scholarship, awarded by the Government of India in 2019

- Cambridge Commonwealth Award to pursue PhD degree at the University of Cambridge, UK from 2003 to 2009

Dr. (Mrs.) J. Prabagar

- Clarendon Fund to pursue DPhil degree at the University of Oxford, UK from 2001 to 2005

Dr. (Mrs.) R. Senthoooran

- Postgraduate Research Grant from University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka and PhD Research Scholarship from University of Canterbury, New Zealand to pursue PhD degree at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand from 2017 to 2020
- Doctoral Publication Scholarship, awarded by UC Foundation in 2020

Dr. (Mrs.) S. Yohi

- Research Assistantship to read for PhD degree at the University of South Dakota, UK from 2010 to 2015

Dr. (Mrs.) S. Selvakumar

- Scholarship to pursue PhD degree at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka from 2013 to 2018. under the HETC project funded by World Bank

Dr. A. Manjiceevan

- Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scholarship, awarded by the Government of India in 2018

5.7 Dissemination of Knowledge

Books / Book Chapters written by Current Staff Members

- Chapter on “Removal of Metsulfuron Methyl – A sulfonylurea herbicide by Fenton’s oxidation and photocatalysis”, by J. M. Abdul, D. P. Ho, M. Senthilnathanan, S. Vigneswaran and J. Kandasamy in Environmental Pollution: Ecology and Human Health, 2012
- Chapter on “Sustainability using solar energy: Present and future”, by Mahoney, L., Rasalingam, S., Naasz, H., and Koodali, T. R. in Teaching and Learning about Sustainability, 2015
- Chapter on “Dye-sensitized and doped TiO₂ mesoporous materials for visible light induced photocatalytic hydrogen evolution”, by Mahoney,

- L., Rasalingam, S. and Koodali, T. R. in *Surface Chemistry for Photocatalysis*, 2015
- “Transition metal dichalcogenide (TMD) nanocomposites for environmental remediation application over extended solar irradiation in Nanocatalysts”, by Shanmugaratnam, S. and Rasalingam, S., IntechOpen, 2018
 - Chapter on “Hydrogen Energy”, by Rasalingam, S. in *Introduction to Clean Energy Technologies*, 2018
 - Chapter on “Bioenergy”, by B. Ketheesan and M. Senthilnathanan in *Introduction to Clean Energy Technologies*, 2018
 - “Quantum-Dot-based Photoelectrochemical Biosensors: Principles, Fabrication, and Applications”, by Manjceevan, A., Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2021
 - “Role of bionanomaterials for environmental remediation”, by Manjceevan, A. and Velauthamurthy, K., IOP Publishing, UK, 2021
 - “Sources of Green Nanomaterials”, by Manjceevan, A. and Velauthamurthy, K., Jenny Stanford Publishing, Taylor & Francis Group, 2022
 - “Role and Significance of Nanobiosensors for Environmental Remediation”, by Manjceevan, A., and Velauthamurthy, K., Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022
 - “Metal-Organic Frameworks in Heterogeneous Catalysis”, by Manjceevan, A. and Velauthamurthy, K., CRC Press, 2023

General Articles written by Current Staff Members

- “Introduction to combinatorial chemistry”, by Srikanan, R. in *Chemisphere*, 2005/2006
- “Biofuels as an alternative for a greener future”, by Srikanan, R. in *Proceedings of Jaffna Science Association*, 2017
- “Nanotechnology”, by Rasalingam, S. in *Pirayoga Vingnana Sudar*, 2018
- “COVID-19 and Sustainable Development Goals: A Challenge or an Opportunity”, by P. Iyngaran in *Pirayoga Vingnana Sudar*, 2019
- “Calcium ion migration in wollastonite mineral”, by M. S. Nimasha and G. Sashikesh in *Chem Soc News Magazine*, 2019/2020

- “Hydrogen energy: Sustainable energy source”, by Yohi, S. in *Pirayoga Vingnana Sudar*, 2020
- “Solid waste management”, by G. Sashikesh in *Pirayoga Vingnana Sudar*, 2020
- “COVID-19 Pandemic: Measures for Safe Travel”, by P. Iyngaran in *Valampuri Newspaper*, 2020
- “Chemical Linguistics: For a New Dimension in Computational Chemistry”, by P. Iyngaran in *ChemSoc News*, 2020
- “Solid Waste: Time to Convert Them into Valuable Resources”, by P. Iyngaran in *Kalaikathir Newspaper*, 2021
- “Mask or no mask for COVID-19”, by A. Manjceevan and K. Velauthamurthy in *Chemisphere Magazine*, 2021

6. Contribution to Institutional Development by the Current Staff Members

Among the numerous contributions to institutional development by the current academic staff members of the Department of Chemistry, only the most impactful are highlighted here to underscore their significance.

Prof. M. Senthilnathanan has held significant leadership roles, including Head of the Department of Chemistry and Director of various Centres focusing on quality assurance and gender equity & equality, and has been involved in World Bank-funded projects such as IRQUE, HETC and AHEAD Operation. Prof. J. P. Jeyadevan served as Dean of the Faculty of Science, and is enhancing educational quality through various administrative roles. Prof. K. Velauthamurthy is the present Head of the Department and has served as Proctor of the University, and participated in quality assurance activities. Former Heads of the Department, including Prof. P. Abiman, Prof. R. Srikanan, and Prof. P. Iyngaran, contributed to research, career guidance, and youth engagement. Dr. T. Manoranjan also served as a former Head and student counsellor. Other notable staff members include Dr. (Mrs.) J. Prabagar, who has contributed to academic evaluations, and Dr. (Mrs.) R. Senthooran, who has coordinated the BSc in Applied Science degree programme. Dr. (Mrs.) S. Yohi has served as postdoctoral Research Assistant, supervising research students and participating in health and safety committees during the pandemic. Dr. (Mrs.) S. Selvakumar is currently serving as the Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

Senior Treasurer of Chemical Society and previously served as a member of the Web & IT Committee. Dr. A. Manjeevan is currently overseeing the BSc Hons in Applied Science degree programme and has held multiple roles, including Deputy Proctor and Student Counselor.

7. Engagement in Outreach Activities

- In the 1980s, the staff members helped the Sri Lanka Institute of Distance Education to conduct chemistry courses.
- Since 1980, many staff members have engaged in the scrutiny of the G.C.E.(A/L) Examinations in Chemistry by serving as Chief Examiners in the marking of answer scripts.
- During the 1980s, the Department of Chemistry provided analytical and consultancy services to the local industries (Yarlico Ltd., Bharmini Crusher, Samacon Ltd., etc.), Palmyrah Development Board, CEYNOR, Jaffna branch of Water Supply & Drainage Board, Department of Agriculture Research Centre at Kilinochchi, Jaffna Municipal Council and Nallur MPCS.
- An educational DVD on laboratory-based experiments in G.C.E(A/L) Chemistry New syllabus (2012 and after) was developed in collaboration with Department of Education, Northern Province and distributed to schools.
- Since 2018, a few academics of the department are engaged in the external review of study programmes offered by state universities. These reviews are conducted by the Quality Assurance Council of UGC.
- An evidence-based research study on “*Quality of Education in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka*” was conducted by the Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs, Sports & Youth Affairs of Northern Province in 2018. A team headed by Prof. M. Senthilnathanan contributed to this study by assessing laboratory based training at schools in the Northern Province.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the proposed project on “*Potable Water Supply to the Jaffna Peninsula by developing Water Resources in Vadamarachchi Lagoon*”

was submitted to the Governor of Northern Province in 2019. Prof. M. Senthilnathanan contributed to the preparation of the said EIA report.

- Chemical Society organised a Session on Chemistry Experiments to the G.C.E.(A/L) students of Mullaitivu Vidyananda College on 20 February 2020.
- Chemical Society, in collaboration with AIESEC, hosted an awareness programme for school children on UN Sustainable Development Goals in March 2020.
- Department of Chemistry actively contributed to the “*Science Education for Bright Future*” programme organised by the Faculty of Science in 2020.
- Chemical Society, in collaboration with Coca-cola beverages, organized a promotion programme on recycling of used PET bottles on 15 September 2020.
- Chemical Society organized a beach clean-up programme on 21 March 2021 as part of its social responsibility initiatives. The event was arranged in close collaboration with the youth of Jaffna and witnessed participation of a large number of volunteers. During the beach clean-up programme at Pannai in Jaffna, the volunteers collected waste, sorted them into categories like plastic, polythene, and biodegradable materials and handed over them at the recycling facility.

8. Notable Achievements

8.1 ELTA-ELSE Development Project under AHEAD Operation

In 2019, the Department of Chemistry secured a competitive grant of LKR 15 million under the ELTA-ELSE DP of the World Bank funded AHEAD Operation. A Project Team consisting of a Project Coordinator (Prof. M. Senthilnathanan) and Activity Coordinators (Prof. G. Sashikesh, Dr. S. Yohi, and Dr. J. Prabagar) successfully executed the project activities. The project focused on improving the intellectual and professional capabilities of graduates by targeting the following areas: English language proficiency, digital-based teaching-learning strategies, laboratory-based research and socioemotional skills development and graduate employability.

With the view of providing a supportive learning environment for the students to develop their

communication skills in English, a UoJ English Speakers Club was established and subject specific activities such as dialogues, debates, poster, speech and drama competitions were organised. This improved English communication skills and promoted self-confidence, leadership and teamwork qualities among students.

Further, a Computer Laboratory consisting of 25 PCs with internet connectivity and ChemDraw software was established in the department to facilitate self-learning. In order to promote digital-based Teaching and learning (T-L) processes, the learning environment was upgraded with relevant tools and staff and students were trained on handling the same. As a result, blended T-L and assessment strategies are being widely practiced now.

Performing quality research was encouraged among staff and students through training on research conduct and advanced analytical techniques and upgrading research laboratories which have improved the quality and quantity of scholarly publications.

To impart socioemotional skills, a new course unit on Action Project was incorporated into the curriculum of BScHons in Chemistry degree programme with effect from 2019/2020 academic year. Simultaneously, the revitalized UoJ Chemical Society and the recently established UoJ English Speakers Club have also implemented several action projects.

To expand our students' horizons in developing career paths by interacting and networking with related industries, institutions, business enterprises and academia, an integrated graduate web portal was developed. Further, a new course unit on Industrial Training was incorporated into the curriculum of BScHons in Chemistry degree programme with effect from 2019/2020 academic year.

8.2 Students' Achievements

8.2.1 At National Level

- A Team consisting of Mr. S. Mathusan, Mr. A. I. P. Wijayawardhana, Ms. Thilini Madhushanika, Ms. Achini Senanayake, Mr. Dumindu Sankalpa, Mr. A. Jenevan Irranious, Ms. S. Shanika, and Ms. Pirunthini Maheswaran won the first place at the inter-university debate competitions conducted by the Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2022.
- A Team consisting of Mr. S. Sivanujan, Ms. Sumudu Nimasha, Ms. Janya Lumbini, Ms. Achini Senanayake, Mr. Dumindu Sankalpa, Mr.

A. Jenevan Irranious, Ms. S. Shanika, and Mr. S. Mathusan won the second place at the inter-university debate competition conducted by the Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon in 2020.

- Mr. Chinthaka Thennakoon became first in the island-wide inter-university research competition conducted by the Sri Lankan section of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK and won a gold medal in 2021.
- Mr. S. Sivanujan received the best Research Award for the work entitled "Secondary and Super Secondary structure of Perfusion conformation of spike protein of SARS-CoV-2: A computational structure profiling" under computing and informatic track of the fifth International Research conference organized by the Uwa Wellassa University of Sri Lanka in 2021.
- A Team consisting of Mr. S. Mathusan, Mr. N. S. L. Bandara, Mr. A. I. P. Wijayawardhana, Ms. Thilini Madushika, and Ms. Pirunthini Maheswaran won the first place at the inter-university chemistry quiz competition among undergraduates organized by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLASS) in 2022.
- Mr. S. Mathushan got the award for best extended abstract paper under the Renewable Energies, Resource Recovery and Upcycling Session of the ChemEIcon Conference organized by the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering of University of Moratuwa in 2024.

8.2.2 At International Level

During the period from 2016 to 2021, two of the outstanding students pursuing BScHons in Chemistry degree programme were given the opportunity to carry out research at the advanced laboratories of the University of Agder, Norway for three months under a scholarship programme. The students who benefitted from this initiative are listed below:

| | |
|------|---|
| 2016 | Miss Razeek Fathima Rifla Miss Janupriya Sugumar |
| 2017 | Miss Shanmugaratnam Sivagowry Miss Kanthasamy Karthikayini |
| 2018 | Miss Praveena Raveendran Miss Hathurusinghage Ayona Lakshani Fernando |
| 2020 | Miss Pathmanathan Sivarukshi |

Mr. Kengatharan Thajeevan

2021 Miss Sukumar Raveena

9. Chemical Society of University of Jaffna

Chemical Society, which was established in 1980, is one of the most active students' societies in the University of Jaffna. The Patron of the society is the Head of the Department and one of the Senior Lecturers from the Department of Chemistry serves as the Senior Treasurer of the society. The membership consists of students offering Chemistry as a subject.

Some key activities of the Chemical Society are given below:

- Organising annual inter-level quiz contest among the undergraduates offering Chemistry as a subject to improve their communication skills and knowledge in Chemistry; the contest is being organised in memory of the Late Professor S. Mageswaran since 1998;
- Organising annual inter-level debate competition among the undergraduates to improve their leadership skills, teamwork ability and English proficiency. This further provides a platform to enhance creative thinking;
- Organising frequent guest lectures on recent advances in science and technology for the benefit of the students;
- Conducted a poster competition among the Level 3M students specializing in Chemistry in 2022 to improve their writing skills in English;
- Organised an inter-school quiz competition among the school students in the Jaffna district on 21 July 2021, in collaboration with SLAAS;
- Releasing "Chemisphere", the magazine of Chemical Society, since 2005;
- Releasing "ChemSoc News", the newsletter of Chemical Society; and
- Conducting action projects and outreach activities

Heads of the Department of Chemistry since 1975



Dr. S. Mageswaran
1975 – 1978



Prof. P. Thurairajan
1978 - 1979



Prof. S. Mageswaran
1979 – 1987
1988 – 1991



Dr. V. Pasupathy
1987 (Actg.)



Prof. (Mrs.) R. Mageswaran
1987 – 1988
1991 – 1995
1998 – 2003
2006 – 2007



Dr. N. Sivapalan
1996 - 1998



Dr. (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan
2003 – 2006
2007 (Actg.)



Dr. R. Srikanan
2007 - 2010



Dr. J. P. Jeyadevan
2010 – 2013



Dr. T. Manoranjan
2013 – 2016



Dr. P. Abiman
2016 – 2017 (Actg.)
2017 – 2020



Prof. J. P. Jeyadevan
2017



Prof. P. Iyngaran
2020 – 2023



Prof. K. Velauthamurty
2023 – to date

Staff Profile – Department of Chemistry

Academic Staff



Prof. (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Leeds, UK)
Chair Professor



Dr. (Mrs.) J. Prabagar
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
DPhil (Oxford, UK)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. J.P. Jeyadevan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Liverpool, UK)
Professor



Dr. (Mrs.) R. Senthooran
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Peradeniya)
PhD (Canterbury, New Zealand)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. K. Velauthamurty
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Professor



Dr. (Mrs.) S. Yohi
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MS (South Dakota, USA)
PhD (South Dakota, USA)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. P. Abiman
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
DPhil (Oxford, UK)
Professor



Dr. (Mrs.) S. Selvakumar
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Colombo)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. R. Srikanan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Sheffield, UK)
Professor



Dr. A. Manjeevan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (Peradeniya)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. G. Sashikesh
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
DPhil (Oxford, UK)
Professor



Prof. P. Iyngaran
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Cambridge, UK)
Professor



Dr. T. Manoranjan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer

Support Staff



Mr. A. Lakshman
Staff Technical Officer



Mr. K. Ithayakumaran
Technical Officer



Mr. A. Thabesan
Staff Technical Officer



Mr. M. Chithirangan
Management Assistant



Mrs. N. Yogenthiram
Staff Technical Officer



Mr. W. J. Abiyooth
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. S. Satheesan
Technical Officer



Mr. K. Aravinth
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. G. Senthilnathan
Technical Officer



Mr. R. Arunpirasath
Laboratory Attendant



Mrs. R. Senthooran
Technical Officer



Mr. S. Thivas
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. T. Kogularaj
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. E. Donaldon
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. M. Sasikaran
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. S. Thaneshan
Laboratory Attendant

Department of Computer Science (DCS)

University of Jaffna

About DCS

Recognising the essential need for computer education for everyone, and the importance of deeper knowledge in Computer Science, especially for science students aiming for better future opportunities, the Department of Computer Science was established in early 1991 within the Faculty of Science. This initiative introduced Computer Science as a subject for students in the Faculty of Science, thanks to the tireless efforts of Professor K. Kunaratnam, Senior Professor of Physics, with Mr. S. Kanaganathan, the then Head of Computer Unit and Senior Lecturer (Department of Mathematics and Statistics) who was involved in writing the initial proposal for the creation of the Department. Their efforts were morally supported by Professor S. Mageswaran, Senior Professor of Chemistry, and a few other staff members of the faculty who had a long-term vision.

The department began its operations on the ground floor of the Mathematics Block, under the leadership of Professor K. Kunaratnam himself, along with three permanent staff members who were transferred from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. The then Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Mr. P. Makinan, deserves special mention for his wholehearted agreement to transfer three academic staff members—one senior lecturer (Mr. S. Kanaganathan) and two probationary lecturers (Messrs. S. Mahesan and M. Umasuthan)—and for allowing the new department to operate on the ground floor of the Mathematics Block. Mr. S. Kanaganathan developed the initial curriculum for Computer Science.

A computer laboratory was established with five IBM-compatible personal computers. The first batch of the thirty-odd students, chosen through a competitive selection examination, shared these five computers for learning and doing practical work during their free time. The laboratory was gradually equipped over the years since 1992, along with a reference section with a good collection of Computer Science books. Unfortunately, all the laboratory equipment and books

were found missing when we returned after the mass exodus that occurred in October/November 1995. The process of re-equipping the laboratory and collecting books had to start from scratch in 1996 after returning to the main campus after the exodus.

At the beginning, while Mr. S. Mahesan and Mr. M. Umasuthan were abroad on study leave, Mr. S. Kanaganathan, the only senior staff member teaching Computer Science, took on the responsibility of conducting most of the lectures for the first batch of undergraduates. Dr. S. Mahesan returned in June 1992 after successfully completing his research degree in Computer Science at the University of Wales, UK, and since then, he has shared the workload with Mr. S. Kanaganathan. Two more staff members to the post of Lecturer (Probationary) Mrs. S. Sriranjani and Mr. S. Kannan were appointed in November 1993 and October 1994 respectively, and Dr. S. Kanaganathan obtained his Doctoral Degree from the University of Jaffna, awarded in 1997.

After being displaced along with the public in Valikamam area, we managed to conduct the final year examinations in the interest of students in Chavakacheri Hindu College and in Vavuniya campus. We were able to return to the main campus only in May 1996, and had to work with a few staff members for a significant period of time. Dr. S. Kanaganathan went on sabbatical leave in February 1997, and returned in mid-June 1998. Mr. S. Kannan went on study leave in August 1997 and returned in September 1998 after qualifying in a Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science and Applications. Mrs. S. Sriranjani was vacated from the post with effect from 04 February 1997. Mr. K. Kesavan and Mr. K. Thabotharan, from the first batch of students with a four year honours degree in Computer Science from the Department of Computer Science, University of Jaffna were appointed as Assistant Lecturers on 23 September 1996 and later appointed as Lecturers (probationary) since 01 December 1997. Mr. S. Kannan was functioning until he went to the UK for higher studies.

In the subsequent years, as students began graduating with the BSc Degree in Computer Science with First or Second class honours, recruitment of new staff members became possible. The new recruits included Mr. E. Y. A. Charles and Miss Dhushyanthi Mylvaganam (in 2001), Mr. M. Sabesan and Mr. S. Suthakar (in 2003), Mr. A. Ramanan (in 2005), Miss Barathy Ganesharajah (in 2009), Mr. K. Sarveswaran (in 2011), Mr. S. Shriparen (in 2014), Dr. M. Siyamalan (in 2018), Miss Samantha Tharani Jeyakumar (in 2018), Misses Nirthika Rajendran and Mayuravaani Mayuranathan (in 2021), and Dr. T. Kokul (in 2022).

Dr. S. Mahesan's unwavering commitment was instrumental in maintaining the continuity of the DCS during a challenging period from 2004 to 2006. As the sole permanent staff member, Dr. Mahesan's leadership and dedication prevented the suspension of academic activities when all probationary lecturers—Mr. K. Thabotharan, Mr. E.Y.A. Charles, Mr. M. Sabesan, and Mr. S. Suthakar—went abroad on study leave to pursue their PhD degrees. During this time, Dr. Mahesan shouldered both academic and administrative responsibilities, with considerable support from Assistant Lecturers Mr. A. Ramanan and Mr. T. Ketheesan, the only available temporary staff members from 2004 to 2005. From 2005 to 2006, Dr. Mahesan, along with Mr. A. Ramanan (appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in April 2005), ensured the smooth operation of the DCS, supported by a few temporary staff. Dr. Mahesan's steadfast commitment was crucial during this period of limited permanent staff. In the latter part of 2006, Mr. Ramanan went on study leave while Dr. Charles resumed his duties at the department. Dr. Charles became the first head of the department from the DCS alumni. Despite these changes, Dr. Mahesan remained a crucial figure in the department's operations, collaborating with Dr. Charles to ensure its smooth functioning until Mr. Thabotharan resumed his duties in March 2010 and Dr. Ramanan in September 2010. Dr. Mahesan's dedication and resilience were key to the department's stability and continued progress during these years. Mr. Thabotharan assumed as head of DCS in March 2014 and introduced the good practice of conducting monthly department meeting to discuss the matters in an open and fair manner.

The services rendered by temporary staff as Instructors have been vital to the Department's smooth functioning since its inception. Initially, non-computing graduates with some computational knowledge were appointed, followed by computing students from the University of Jaffna, and then graduates from other universities as well. These appointments have been made every academic year, and their contributions have been particularly essential in conducting practical sessions. The services rendered by clerical staff also deserve mention: Mr. V. M. Rajaratnam served as a clerk from January 1993 until his untimely passing in February 2000. Mr. M. Rajendram, who began as a Data Entry Operator in 1994, continued until his retirement in November 2018, covering clerical duties in the absence of the clerk. Mr. P. Amirtharajah rendered his dutiful services as a works aide from August 1994 until his retirement in January 2021. Ms. Shaveetha Balachandran worked as a Computer Applications Assistant from December 2005 until June 2008. Additionally, Mr. P. Sri Arulanantharajah was employed as a labourer in the Department from November 1993 until September 1994.

Currently, the DCS is staffed by a dedicated team of 12 academic staff members, including two professors, seven senior lecturers, and three lecturers. Additionally, the department employs two academic support staff, four non-academic staff, and two contract staff. This team collaborates to support and serve approximately 400 students, offering a comprehensive range of academic and administrative services under one roof. More details about DCS and its activities can be found at www.csc.jfn.ac.lk

Curriculum

Since 1991, the department has offered Computer Science as a subject for Physical Science students, leading to an Honours Degree in Computer Science. In 2007, the Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science (BSc in Computer Science) was introduced for students directly admitted by the UGC under the Computer Science (Direct-intake) stream. In 2015, an extended fourth-year Applied Science degree in Computing was introduced for students who did not qualify for the special degree programme in Computer Science. Currently, the department offers:

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (3-year degree programme)
- Bachelor of Science Honours in Computer Science (4-year degree programme)
- Bachelor of Science Honours in Applied Science (4-year degree programme)

In 2014, the department made a structural change to the BSc (Computer Science) degree programme for students directly admitted by the UGC under the Computer Science stream, offering all 120 credit courses in computer science. The curriculum was revamped following changes in degree structures made by the Faculty of Science in 2017. This degree programme was renamed BSc Hons (Computer Science) in 2019 to align with the SLQF standard and the recommendations of the UGC's Standing Committee in Computing. The syllabi have been carefully crafted in accordance with ACM/IEEE recommendations to align with the degree requirements. The BSc Hons (Computer Science) study programme offered by the DCS received an Outstanding 'A' Grade in the 2023 programme review conducted by the Quality Assurance Framework of the UGC and the Ministry of Higher Education. This A Grade attests to the effectiveness of the DCS's processes in managing and assuring the quality of the study programme, student learning experiences, and the standards of awards within the programme.

The DCS is dedicated to preparing students for the modern job market through a comprehensive and forward-thinking curriculum. This curriculum encompasses both fundamental and emerging trends in computer science, including Artificial Intelligence, Bioinformatics, Computer Graphics, Data Communications & Computer Networking, High-Performance Computing, Human-Computer Interaction, Image Processing and Computer Vision, Machine Learning, Mobile Computing, Data Science, Software Engineering, and Web Technologies. In addition to technical knowledge, the curriculum also emphasises real-world readiness through industrial training, group/research projects, and various co-curricular activities. Since 2011, the DCS has maintained strong relationships with software development industries through SLASSCOM and direct contacts. Key industry partners include 99x, Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

WSO2, Virtusa, IFS, hSenid Mobile Solutions, H2O.ai, SyscoLabs, and CodeGen. These collaborations enrich the teaching and learning processes, ensuring students receive up-to-date industry insights and practical experience. IT professionals from these companies frequently deliver TechTalks and serve as visiting lecturers, imparting knowledge on the latest advancement in computer science. This blend of academic rigour and industry engagement underscores the DCS's commitment to equipping students with the skills and experiences necessary for success in the modern job market. DCS also facilitates its students in securing industrial placements and job opportunities by conducting the CS-Career Fair. The inaugural CS-Career Fair was organised by Dr. A. Ramanan, the then head of the department, on August 5, 2017 with participation from companies including WSO2, Virtusa, hSenid Mobile, IFS, Techorin, Innovay, Tiqri, Ceymplon, Arima Technologies, Irstha, and Integrate 2 Cloud Apps. Since then, the CS-Career Fair has been conducted annually on the premises of the Faculty of Science. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been conducted in a hybrid mode. DCS offers a student progress management system, developed by Mr. V. Visithan (Programmer cum Systems Analyst), under the guidance and supervision of the then head, DCS, Dr. K. Thabocharan, which allows students to view their results and GPAs at each level of study.

Furthermore, renowned foreign academics as external examiners ensure the standards of our Honours Degree Examinations, providing a level of international recognition for our graduates. This recognition enables them to obtain scholarships for their higher studies. The following external foreign examiners have been contributing to the DCS: Professor Richard Wait (Uppsala, Sweden), Dr. Paul Leng (Liverpool, UK), Professor Ralph Martin (Cardiff, UK), Professor David Marshall (Cardiff, UK), Professor Mahesan Niranjana (Southampton, UK), Dr. Arnold Pears (Uppsala, Sweden), Dr. Andrew Jones (Cardiff, UK), and Dr. Siobhán North (Sheffield, UK). Additionally, the following Sri Lankan examiners have also contributed from other Universities: Late Professor Gihan Wikramanayake (UCSC), Professor D.D. Karunaratna (UCSC), Professor G.K.A. Dias (UCSC), Professor Roshan G. Ragel (Peradeniya),

Dr. Nalin Ranasinghe (UCSC), Dr. Gihan Seneviratne (UCSC), and Dr. S. Kanaganathan (former HoD/DCS; Eastern University; Vavuniya Campus).

The DCS enrolls approximately 150 students in the first year, with a total of about 400 students currently pursuing their studies across all levels, from first-year to honours degree students. Our diverse student population comprises Sinhalese (57%), Tamils (35%), and Muslims (08%). It is noteworthy that in 2010, the Faculty of Science welcomed its first cohort of Sinhala students to pursue a subject-specific degree programme in Computer Science through direct admission by the UGC. Subsequently, under the Presidential Scholarship, the DCS received a total of four students from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and Afghanistan to pursue BSc degrees in Computer Science during 2015 - 2017.

The department is now designing the curricula and course structures to expand undergraduate degree programmes to include BSc Hons (Artificial Intelligence) and BSc Hons (Cybersecurity). In addition to its undergraduate programmes, the Department of Computer Science (DCS) has long aspired to introduce master's degree programmes. Initiatives began in 2019 with a concept paper by the then head of the department, Dr. A. Ramanan. Later, in 2023, the then head of the department, Mr. S. Suthakar, revived this initiative with unwavering support from the department's academics. Comprehensive structures and curricula for two master's programmes, the MCS and MSc (CS), were developed in consultation with academic and industry experts, as well as potential stakeholders. The department is now finalising preparations to launch these postgraduate programmes in the near future.

To further extend its academic activities to the community, the department initiated the process of launching certificate courses in computing at the beginning of 2023. Mr. S. Suthakar, the then head of the department, was instrumental in the process of commencing and implementing these courses, which were designed to enhance computing skills for individuals from other departments and faculties, as well as for students and professionals

outside the university system. The curricula for four certificate courses—Building Blocks of IoT, Python for Problem Solving, Responsive Web Development, and Advanced Web Development—were meticulously crafted by the department staff to address current global demands. With strong support from the current head of the department, Dr. (Mrs.) Barathy Mayurathan, the department inaugurated these certificate courses in March 2024, and the first batch completed their programmes in June 2024.

Construction of the DCS Building

In 2011, Dr. S. Mahesan, with the assistance of Dr. A. Ramanan, prepared a project concept paper for the construction of a Computer Complex to house the Department of Computer Science (DCS) and the Computer Unit on 3,480 square yards at the main campus, with a cost estimate of LKR 200 million. However, in 2013, the concept was revised without the knowledge of the DCS staff to focus on constructing a building for the Information Technology and Language Center, excluding the DCS.

Recognising the growing student population and job opportunities for graduates, the Department of Computer Science proposed to the UGC the construction of a three-story building with an additional floor extension, costing LKR 240 million. This initiative was led by Dr. K. Thabotharan, the then Head of DCS. Dr. Thabotharan made several visits to the UGC, and the Ministry of Education to get the proposal approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Sri Lanka. Dr. A. Ramanan drafted a comprehensive proposal and floor plan detailing the building's specifications, including an auditorium, PC laboratories, a research laboratory, seminar and group discussion rooms, an open study hall, staff rooms, research retreat, washrooms, storerooms, basement parking, an RO water plant, a sewage treatment plant, a 10kVA auto backup generator, and lift facilities. Dr. E.Y.A. Charles prepared the computer networking and power installation requirements with the assistance of Mr. T. Sugirthan, the Assistant Network Manager. Mr. M. Vijendran, the Works Superintendent, assisted in preparing the ERD form for the proposal. Dr. Thabotharan and subsequently Dr. Ramanan

pursued follow-up actions with the UGC and government officials to secure the necessary funding, but none were fruitful. In 2018, during the visit of Dr. Harsha Aturupane, the Project Director of the AHEAD Operations in Sri Lanka, to the University of Jaffna, Dr. Thabotharan and Dr. Ramanan requested the allocation of funding for the proposed new building's construction. This request resulted in DCS securing LKR 240 million from the World Bank-funded AHEAD Operations.

Bids were invited in July 2018, and the construction contract was awarded to M/S Sanken Construction (Pvt) Ltd in December 2018. In April 2019, the contractor completed demolishing the building previously used by the Health Centre of the university, and the State Timber Corporation removed the trees located at the construction site. Excavation work for the new building commenced on May 29, 2019. In December 2019, Dr. A. Ramanan requested an additional LKR 7.7 million to complete the roof. This was approved in July 2020 by Dr. Harsha Aturupane of the World Bank, and M/S Sanken completed the rooftop to facilitate future solar panel installation. Although the COVID-19 pandemic caused periodic delays, construction ultimately progressed. On June 1, 2022, Professor S. Srisatkunarah, the Vice Chancellor, officially opened the new building under the headship of Mr. S. Suthakar. Professor A. Ramanan played a crucial role in monitoring the construction of the building almost daily and coordinating all the alumni projects for the enrichment of the new building. DCS alumni generously donated over LKR 5 million (www.csc.jfn.ac.lk/donation-for-the-new-building) worth of furniture, fixtures, and amenities, demonstrating their deep appreciation and support for the department and its future students, making it fully functional to this date (August 2024).

The "CS Think Park" was created to facilitate students' independent and group learning and provide a space for leisure activities. Generously funded by the 7th and 8th batches of the alumni of the DCS, the park features newly planted mango, neem, Arecanut trees, and crotons, along with new stone seats and tables. Strategically located in front of the new DCS building, the park transformed a small area of bare land into a vibrant and welcoming space for students. The construction was overseen by Professor A. Ramanan, representing the 7th and 8th batches, during the headship of Mr. S. Suthakar. Since its completion, CS Think Park has become a cherished spot for students, who use it for various activities, including celebrating

the birthdays of batchmates and teachers. The park's thoughtful design and amenities have made it an integral part of the campus, enhancing the student experience at the University of Jaffna.

Recognitions, Funding, and Scholarships for Research Excellence

Academics of the DCS have earned numerous prestigious research accolades, such as the International Contest Awards, President's Awards for Scientific Publications, CSSL ICT Researcher of the Year Awards, SUSRED Awards for supervising MPhil/PhD students, SLASSCOM National Ingenuity Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships, as well as Best Paper and Presentation Awards.

International Contest Achievement

Professor M. Siyamalan

- A member of the team that won third place out of 77 teams worldwide at the ISIC-2018 Grand Challenge "Skin Lesion Analysis Towards Melanoma Detection, (Task 3 – Lesion Diagnosis)", organised by the International Skin Imaging Collaboration, in 2018.

National-level Research Awards

Professor A. Ramanan

- National Educator (Silver) Award 2024 in recognition of excellence in teaching, scholarly work, and national contribution in the discipline of Computing. Awarding Agency: SLIIT Innovate, Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2024.
- SUSRED Awards 2022/2023 for supervising the PhD Thesis titled 'A semi-supervised deep learning approach based on attentive visual features for fashion clothing classification'. Awarding Agency: National Science Foundation (NSF), Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2024
- SUSRED Awards 2022/2023 for co-supervising the PhD Thesis titled 'Deep learning based fine-grained diabetic retinopathy image grading'. Awarding Agency: National Science Foundation (NSF), Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2024
- President's Award for Scientific Publication - 2019 for the publication: "Target-Specific Siamese Attention Network for Real-time Object Tracking", In IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics & Security, pp.1276 – 1289, doi: 10.1109/TIFS.2019.2935871, 2019. Awarding Agency: National Research Council (NRC), Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2023
- CSSL ICT Researcher of the Year Award – 2022. Awarding Agency: Computer Society of Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2023

Professor M. Siyamalan

- SUSRED Awards 2022/2023 for supervising the PhD Thesis titled ‘Deep learning based fine-grained diabetic retinopathy image grading’. Awarding Agency: National Science Foundation (NSF), Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2024
- CSSL ICT Researcher of the Year Award – 2021. Awarding Agency: Computer Society of Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2022
- President’s Award for Scientific Publication - 2018 for the publication: “Structure Prediction for Gland Segmentation with Hand-Crafted and Deep Convolutional Features”, IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging, 2018, 37(1):210-221. Awarding Agency: National Research Council (NRC), Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2021
- Winner of Vidya E-News Article Contest in the field of Artificial Intelligence under the Academic Category. Awarding Agency: Research and Innovation Division, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2021
- Best innovative project (University category) at the Provincial Level of the SLASSCOM National Ingenuity Awards 2021. Awarding Agency: SLASSCOM. Awarded in 2021
- President’s Award for Scientific Publication - 2017 for the publication: “Sub-Category Classifiers for Multiple-Instance Learning and its Application to Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Visibility Classification”, IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging, 2017, 36(5):1140–1150. Awarding Agency: National Research Council (NRC), Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2019

Dr. E.Y.A. Charles

- President’s Award for Scientific Publication - 2008 for the publication: “Control chart pattern clustering using a new self-organising spiking neural network”, Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Part B: Journal of Engineering Manufacture, Vol. 222, No. 10, 2008; pp. 1201-1211. Awarding Agency: National Research Council (NRC), Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2014

Dr. K. Thabotharan

- Best Solution Oriented Thesis Award - 2016: Supervisor K. Thabotharan, Student Mr. R. Kumaran, for the supervision of the undergraduate research thesis entitled “A hop-count and Time Based MANET Routing Protocol”, awarded by the University Business Linkage of the University of Jaffna, UBL Initiative Program Sri Lanka and Leipzig University, Germany, 2016.

Dr. K. Sarveswaran

- Digital Social Impact Award at the e-Swabhimani 2016 under the category of Government and Citizen Engagement. Awarding Agency: Ministry of Telecommunication and Infrastructure, Awarded in 2016
- Jury’s mention award for a Mobile App build as a part of an undergraduate project at the mBillionth-2016: Awards South Asia 2016 held in Delhi, India. Awarded in 2016.
- Best Solution Oriented Thesis Award – 2016 for ‘Consumer buying pattern analysis using an efficient approach’ by University Business Linkage Unit of the University of Jaffna. Awarded in 2016
- National Best e-Content award – 2016 for the ‘Right2Sight: A mobile app to help visually impaired people to use Mobile phone’. Awarding Agency: ICTA, Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2016. <http://www.eswabhimani.lk>

Dr. T. Kokul

- CSSL ICT Researcher of the Year Award – 2023. Awarding Agency: Computer Society of Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2024.
- President’s Award for Scientific Publication - 2018 for the publication: “Structure Prediction for Gland Segmentation with Hand-Crafted and Deep Convolutional Features”, IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging, 2018, 37(1):210-221. Awarding Agency: National Research Council (NRC), Sri Lanka. Awarded in 2021.

The DCS staff also secure competitive grants at both national and international levels to enhance and conduct more extensive research activities at the department.

Research Grants
Dr. S. Mahesan

- Co-investigator of “Tamil Digitisation Project” under the research grant No. ICTA/AFC/HIP/28/02 obtained from the ICTA of Sri Lanka, April 2013 – March 2014.

Professor A. Ramanan:

- Co-Principal Investigator of “Google Research exploreCSR 2023 Award” obtained USD 24,000.00 from Google through the University of Melbourne, November 2023 – June 2024.
- Principal Investigator of “Sri Lankan Paddy Leaf Disease Detection Using Deep Learning Techniques” under the research grant No. AHEAD/RA3/UBL/JFN/OVAA/44 obtained LKR 510,000.00 from the UBL of the University of Jaffna, 2023.
- Principal Proposal Writer for the 2023 IEEE CIS Summer School on Computational Intelligence: Theory and Applications. The proposal received USD 3,900.00 in funds from the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society for the event conducted at the University of Jaffna from 12-14 July 2023.
- Co-investigator of “Development of an early warning system, a risk map and a prediction model for dengue and establishment of role brackish water derived mosquitoes in dengue transmission in Jaffna district” under the research grant No. RPHS/2016/D02 obtained from the NSF Sri Lanka, January 2017 – December 2019.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Investigator of “Training images vs Discriminative features on the construction of codebook to recognise visual objects” under the research grant No. NRC 15-128 obtained LKR 400,000.00 from the NRC Sri Lanka, February 2015 – February 2017. Co-investigator of “Tamil Digitisation Project” under the research grant No. ICTA/AFC/HIP/28/02 obtained from the ICTA of Sri Lanka, April 2013 – March 2014. |
| <p>Professor M. Siyamalan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Investigator for University of Jaffna Research Grants in 2021 & 2017 Principal Investigator for the Small Scale GPU Grants by NVidia Corporation, USA in 2017 Principal Proposal Writer for conducting a series of Internet of Things workshops for school students. The proposal received USD 1,968.65 in funds from the IEEE Pre-University STEM Portal, 2022. Principal Proposal Writer for the IEEE CS Chapter grant to conduct a workshop on Deep Learning, and IEEE SPAX grant to conduct a career-guidance workshop to the students |
| <p>Dr. E.Y.A. Charles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Applicant for the “Clean Water Initiative: Empowering Communities in Polonnaruwa”, under the IEEE Tech4Good Grant, USD 9600, July 2024 - January 2025 Co-investigator of “Tamil Digitisation Project” under the research grant No. ICTA/AFC/HIP/28/02 obtained from the ICTA of Sri Lanka, April 2013 – March 2014. |
| <p>Dr. K. Thabotharan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributed as one of the proposal writers for the establishment of the IoT Laboratory entitled “Enhancing Academic Activities by Establishing an IoT Laboratory” at the Department of Computer Science, University of Jaffna, in which The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), The Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) and Dialog Axiata played a major role and we were successful in obtaining the equipment for the establishment of the IoT laboratory for a total value of LKR 12 Million Principal Investigator of the competitive research entitled “Agriculture Product Management System” under the grant No. AHEAD/RA3/UBL/JFN/OVAA/27 for the amount of LKR 350,000.00 obtained from the University Business Linkage, of the University of Jaffna, 2023 20 Desktop computers and 05 Laser Printers were procured under the SIDA funded PhD grant and were installed in the Main laboratory of the DCS for the usage of students and staff, 2010 |

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| <p>Dr. (Mrs.) B. Mayurathan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Proposal Writer for the “Workshop on Empowering Women in IoT Technologies” secured LKR 120,000 under the IEEE WIE special fund. Purchase of a workstation under the URG at the University of Jaffna for the project titled “Large-scale Learning for Image Classification” in 2015. |
| <p>Mr. S. Suthakar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Proposal Writer for the “Enhancing Academic Activities by Establishing an IoT Laboratory” initiative, which resulted in the establishment of the “IoT Innovation Lab” at the Department of Computer Science in December 2022, equipped with resources worth over LKR 12 million. Principal Investigator of the project, titled “Strengthening Software Development Infrastructure for Commercialising Software Solutions” under the research grant (No: RDC/AHEAD/RA3/JFN/UBL / CA/23) obtained LKR 840,000.00 from the UBL of the University of Jaffna, 2023. |
| <p>Dr. K. Sarveswaran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Research Grant to build a Sri Lankan Tamil Corpus, 2024-2025 The German Academic Exchange Service-Sustainable Development Goals (DAAD-SDG) grant for the project “DigSAL: Addressing the Digital Divide for South Asian Languages,” in collaboration with the University of Konstanz, Germany, the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, and the University of Engineering and Technology, Pakistan, 2024-2027 Principal Investigator of “Tamil intent classification for the e-commerce domain” under the research grant obtained LKR 400,000 from the UBL of the University of Jaffna, 2023. Professor V K Samaranyake Publication grant from LK Domain Registry, Sri Lanka to publish a paper at the International Conference on Asian Language Processing (IALP), Singapore. December 11-13, 2021 DAAD funding of EUR 30,000 with Professor G. Dias and Professor Miriam Butt to organise an International Summer School in Natural Language Engineering from 11-23 March, 2019. www.issale.lk Co-investigator of “Development of an early warning system, a risk map and a prediction model for dengue and establishment of role brackish water derived mosquitoes in dengue transmission in Jaffna district” under the research grant No. RPHS/2016/D02 obtained from the NSF Sri Lanka, January 2017 – December 2019 |
| <p>Dr. (Ms.) R. Nirthika</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Proposal Writer for the IEEE R10 WIE - DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Grant 2024 |



| Fellowships |
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| <p>Professor M. Siyamalan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF), Department of Science and Technology, India, 2021 INSA-JRD TATA Fellowship, Department of Science and Technology, India, 2021 Post-doctoral fellowship at the Intelligence Science and System Lab, School of Data and Computer Science, Sun Yat-sen University, China, 2019 & 2018 |
| <p>Dr. K. Sarveswaran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herz Fellowship from the Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz, Germany, 2023 - 2024 International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) – U.S. Department of State’s premier professional exchange program, December 2019 |

| Scholarships |
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| <p>Professor A. Ramanan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD Programme at the School of Electronics and Computer Science, University of Southampton, UK, 2008 - 2010 MPhil/PhD Programme at the Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield, UK, 2006 - 2008 Split-site MPhil Programme at the University of Sheffield, UK and PhD Programme at the University of Southampton, UK under the World Bank funded IRQUE project implemented at University of Jaffna, 2006 - 2010 |
| <p>Dr. E. Y. A. Charles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD Programme at the Manufacturing Engineering Centre, Cardiff University, UK, 2003 - 2007 |
| <p>Dr. K. Thabotharan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swedish International Development and Corporation Agency (SIDA) split-site PhD Scholarship, 2004 - 2009 |
| <p>Dr. M. Sabesan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Split-site PhD Programme under the SIDA project implemented at UCSC, 2004 - 2007 |
| <p>Dr. (Mrs). Barathy Mayurathan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Split-site PhD Programme at the University of Peradeniya and the University of Southampton, UK under the World Bank-funded HETC project implemented at the University of Jaffna, 2012 - 2013 |
| <p>Mr. S. Suthakar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Split-site PhD Programme under the SIDA project implemented at UCSC, 2004 - 2007 |
| <p>Dr. S. Shriparen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD Programme at the QUT, Australia under the University Grants Commission (UGC) postgraduate research grant, 2016 QUT HDR Tuition Fee Scholarship, 2017 - 2021 |

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| <p>Ms. Samantha Tharani J.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD Programme at Griffith University, Australia under the World Bank-funded AHEAD project implemented at the University of Jaffna, 2020 - 2024 |
| <p>Ms. Mayuravaani Mathuranathan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD Programme at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 2023 - 2026 |

| Best Paper Awards |
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| <p>Professor A. Ramanan: IEEE ICARC - 2022, IEEE ICIIS - 2020, IEEE ICTer - 2015</p> |
| <p>Professor M. Siyamalan: IEEE ICIIS - 2020, IEEE ICIIS - 2019</p> |
| <p>Dr. E.Y.A. Charles: IEEE ICTer - 2015</p> |
| <p>Dr. K. Thabotharan: IEEE ICON - 2012</p> |
| <p>Dr. T. Kokul: IEEE ICARC 2022</p> |

| Best Presentation Awards |
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| <p>Professor A. Ramanan: Symposium on Data Modelling for New Researchers, University of Sheffield, UK - 2007</p> |
| <p>Dr. K. Sarveswaran: iCMA - 2014</p> |

| Best Poster Award |
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| <p>Professor A. Ramanan: Workshop on Intensive 5-day Generic Skills for Research Students, University of Southampton, UK - 2008</p> |

| Travel Grants |
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| <p>Professor A. Ramanan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSF Sri Lanka Grant to participate at the Digital Image Computing: Techniques and Applications (DICTA) Conference held in Adelaide, Australia on 23 – 25 November 2015 University of Jaffna Grant to participate at the International Conference on Digital Image Processing and Pattern Recognition (DPPR) held in Chennai, India on 25 – 26 July 2015 The European Community’s Seventh Framework Programme Grant for the Personal Information Navigator adapting through the Viewing Project to participate at the 11th European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), Crete, Greece on 5-11 September 2010 EU-funded Network of Excellence on Pattern Analysis, Statistical Modelling and Computational Learning (PASCAL) Grant to participate at the Twenty-Third Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) held in Vancouver B.C., Canada on 7-9 December 2009 |

- University of Southampton Grant to participate at the 10th European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV) held in Marseille, France on 12-18 October 2008
- University of Sheffield Grant to participate at the 11th International Workshop on the Analysis of Patterns, held in Forli-Cesena, Italy on 22-26 October 2007

Dr. K. Thabotharan

- NSF Sri Lanka, to participate and present a research paper in the 18th IEEE International Conference on Networks (ICON), Singapore on 12-14 December 2012
- TATA Research Development and Design Centre Grant to participate in the TATA Consultancy Services (TCS) Excellence in Computer Science Week Pune, India on 3-7 January 2011
- CoNEXT'07 (Conference on Emerging Networking EXperiments and Technologies) Grant to participate and present a research paper in the CoNEXT-2007 Conference in New York, USA on 10-13 December 2007

Mr. S. Suthakar

- University of Jaffna grant to participate in the International Conference on Electronics, Computer, and Information Technology 2016 (ECIT'16), held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 5-6 January 2016.

Dr. K. Sarveswaran:

- DAAD-SDG grant to attend a workshop at the University of Konstanz in June 7-13, 2024.
- Tamil Nadu Government State grant to give a keynote address at the KaniTami24 conference held in Chennai, India in February 2024.
- ITEE Foundation grant to present at the FITEN conference, Sacramento, California, USA, July 2023.
- Mobility Grant of EUR 1,500.00 per annum under DAAD-PPP from NSF to go to Germany, 2019-2020.
- LK Domain Registry to present a paper at the LFG-2019 conference, 8-10 July 2019, ANU, Australia.
- CTC Grant to present in a conference on "Redeveloping Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka" held in Toronto, Canada, 15-17 January 2017.
- DAAD Grant to attend the International Summer School in Language Engineering held at UCSC, Colombo, 2014.
- Mozilla Foundation Grant to attend the Mozilla Summit 2013 held in California, USA.
- DAAD Grant to attend Summer School in Advanced Language Engineering held in Nepal, 26th August – 21st September 2012.

Commercialisation of Software Product

- A web based software developed by Dr. K. Thabotharan and one of the students of the DCS Mr. R. Ramanaruban entitled "Agriculture Products Management System" was commercialised through the University Business Linkage (UBL) of the University of Jaffna, in 2023. A Memorandum of Understanding enabling the commercialization of the product was signed between the buyer of the software and the University was signed on 18 April 2023.

National-level Student Achievements

- Mr. T. Kokul received the Best Presentation Award at the third national Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS'15) held on 7th of November 2015 at the University of Jaffna.
- Mr. N. Nilashan, Mr. S. Thenuzan, Mr. S. Mayooran and Ms. D. Lukshica received the Best Poster Award at the second national Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS'13) held on 14th of December 2013 at the University of Jaffna.
- A team of students participated in the final round of the Inter-university Enterprise Mobility Software Development Competition 2013, organised by Motorola Inc. and SLASSCOM, and won the Second Runner-up. The team members are Mr. K. Thabotharan (Project Supervisor), Mr. B.M. Zajith, Mr. R. Miller, Ms. Anusha Harshani S., Mr. M.I.M. Nifras, and Mr. V. Saahithyan.
- A team comprising two fourth-year students and two third-year students participated in the final round of the Inter-university Enterprise Mobility Software Development Competition-2011, organised by Motorola Inc. and SLASSCOM, and won the Second Runner-up. The team members are Mr. K. Thabotharan (Project Supervisor), Mr. Ranjith Subramaniam, Mr. Kaveevendan Varatharajah, Mr. Sivasakthy Sugirthan, and Mr. Namasivayam Nilashan.
- Mr. S. Sivasuthan received the Best Poster Award at the first national Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS'11) held on the 8th of December 2011 at the University of Jaffna.
- Mr. Janith Somaweera received the Best Poster Award and Mrs. Janani Kugarajeevan received the Best Presentation Award at the seventh national Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS'23) held on 9th of December 2023 at the University of Jaffna.
- Three of our Level 3 students, Mr. R.N. Viththagan, Mr. S. Vithurshan and Mr. V. Sayanishan competed in the CodeStorm coding challenge, part of the Yarl IT Hub Innovation Festival 2023, held on November 4, 2023. They achieved Second Runner Up and were awarded a cash prize of LKR 10,000.00.

- Two of our Level 3S students, Mr. K. M. Ravindu Lasantha Senadeera and Ms. M. K. T. Sammani Fernando participated in the mSpace 'Code Blast' National Hackathon held on 30th September 2023 at the Trace Expert City, Colombo 10 and became the 1st Runner Up and won a cash prize of LKR 200,000.00.
- Ms. M. Mayuravaani and Ms. R. Priyadarshani received the Best Poster Award (Joint) and Ms. R. Nirthika and Mrs. Shajini Majuran received the Best Presentation Award (Joint) at the sixth national Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS'21) held on 4th of December 2021 at the University of Jaffna.

- The final year research project, “A self-training convolutional neural network for the classification of surface defects in computer integrated manufacturing”, conducted by Ms. M. Mayuravaani, a Level-4S student under the supervision of Dr. M. Siyamalan has been awarded as a “Best innovative project – University category” at the Provincial Level of the “Sri Lanka Association of Software and Services Companies (SLASSCOM) National Ingenuity Awards 2021.
- Ms. Kasthuriarachchi, T. C and Ms. S. Meruja received the Best Poster Award (Joint), and Ms. R. Nirthika and Mrs. Shajini Majuran received the Best Presentation Award (Joint) at the fifth national Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS’19) held on 7th of December 2019 at the University of Jaffna.
- A team of five students including Mr. Robin Roy Vimalanathan (Team lead) from DCS participated in the Deakin Innovation Challenge, Sri Lanka 2018, for the proposal entitled “Automated Hydroponic System with Machine Learning”, under the guidance of Dr. K. Thabotharan. The competition, which was held on 29th January, 2019 in the Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka, and won the second place with a cash prize of AUD 1,500
- Our student team participated in the Start-up Weekend: Women’s Edition organised by Techstars, which was held from February 8th to 10th, 2019, at the Dialog Axiata Auditorium in Colombo. The group, consisting of Ms. Divya, Ms. Vetharshana, Ms. Ranjithamalar, and two members from other higher education institutions, became the 1st Runner-Up.
- Mr. R. Miller received the Best Poster Award and Mrs. Shajini Majuran received the Best Presentation Award at the fourth national Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS’17) held on 9th of December 2017 at the University of Jaffna.

- a competitive basis for the two-week programme in November 2017 in China referred to as “Seeds for the future” funded by Huawei. Mr. Thushanthan got an opportunity to study cutting-edge technologies such as LTE and cloud computing, and hands-on practice in Huawei Headquarter’s most advanced labs in Shenzhen, China.
- The following team of students, Mr. Pramuditha Chamikara, Mr. Samila Chanuka, Mr. Indura Widyasekara, and Mr. Nayananga Muhandiram, got selected for 1 million rupees of pre-approved finance for developing their project idea at Fintech Hack-2017, which was organised by the Nations Trust Bank.

- Mr. A. Thushanthan from Level 4S was selected on Mr. Robinroy Peter was awarded Special Recognition in the Tertiary (Business) Category in the National Best Quality ICT Awards 2016 for his project Accident-Free Driving supervised by Dr. K. Thabotharan, awarded on the 14th of October 2016.
- Our student team won the Second Runner-up in the Code Sprint Hackathon organised by Ideamart in 2015. The team members who participated in this competition are Mr. B.M. Zajith, Mr. I.D.Q. Balendra, Mr. A.I.U. Kumara, Ms. Nirthika R., and Ms. Arunya S.

Postgraduate Research Supervision in Computer Science

The DCS boasts a robust team of faculty members who excel in postgraduate research supervision, significantly contributing to the successful completion and ongoing supervision of MPhil and PhD degrees in Computer Science. Dr. S. Mahesan supervised three MPhil students and guided two PhD students to completion. Professor A. Ramanan has successfully supervised five MSc students, three MPhil students, and three PhD students to completion, and is currently co-supervising an MPhil candidate and a PhD candidate. Professor M. Siyamalan has successfully supervised an MSc student and a PhD student, and is currently supervising an MPhil candidate and a PhD candidate. Dr. E.Y.A. Charles has completed supervision of two MPhil students and a PhD student, and is presently co-supervising four MPhil candidates and a PhD candidate. Dr. K. Thabotharan has successfully supervised six MSc students to completion. Mr. S. Suthakar has successfully supervised two MSc students. Dr. K. Sarveswaran is currently supervising two MPhil students and a Masters student from Germany. In the past he has supervised six MEd students. Additionally, Dr. T. Kokul has successfully supervised four MSc and one MPhil student, and is currently co-supervising an MPhil and a PhD candidate. This collective expertise and dedication underscore the strength of the DCS staff in fostering high-quality research and supporting postgraduate scholars towards their academic achievements. Some of the above postgraduate supervision is performed in collaboration with foreign and Sri Lankan universities such as Queensland University of Technology (Australia), The University of Sheffield (UK), Griffith University (Australia), Konstanz University (Germany), University of Moratuwa (Sri Lanka), University of Colombo School of Computing (Sri Lanka), and University of Peradeniya (Sri Lanka).

Permanent Staff of the Department

Dr. S. Mahesan served as the Head of the Department of Computer Science and the Head of the Computer Unit, as well as a member of the Board of Directors of LEARN and a member of the Standing Committee on Computing at the UGC for several years. When we secured SIDA funds for networking, Dr. Mahesan worked closely with the then Dean of the Faculty, Professor R. Kumaravadivel, to conduct a feasibility study and initiate the process of establishing a campus-wide network. He coordinated the activities whenever the SIDA team, consisting of personnel from Sweden and Colombo, visited the University for this project. Dr. Mahesan also contributed to writing proposals for the World Bank project aimed at Improving Relevance and Quality Enhancement (IRQUE). The Department of Computer Science, along with the Faculty of Science in general, benefited from this project by enhancing teaching and learning, and by training our staff abroad to the level of PhD

Dr. E.Y.A. Charles holds several key administrative and academic positions in the university: Head of the Computer Science Department (2008-2014), Patron of the Computer Society of this university (2008-2014), a member of the UGC's Standing Committee on Computing (2008-2014), Head of the Computer Unit (2015-2018), a member of the Board of Directors for LEARN (2015-2017), Director of the OTS, World Bank funded AHEAD Operations (2018-2024), a member of the UGC's Standing Committee on Development of Information Technology Infrastructure and Online Education (2020 to date). He served as a Coordinator for the Campus-wide networking project funded by the SIDA (2008-2009) and he serves as an administrator of the entire campus network (2009 to date) along with network managers of this university. In addition, he serves as one the administrator for network services including Moodle learning management system (LMS), email, and web of this university (2009 to date). Currently, Dr. Charles is the Lead of the university student management information system (www.myuoj.jfn.ac.lk) development team, and he is the Branch Counsellor of the IEEE Student Branch of this university.

Professor A. Ramanan holds various administrative and academic positions in the university: Coordinator of e-learning for the Staff Development Centre (SDC) Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

at the University of Jaffna (2013-2016), Activity Coordinator for Improving Career Prospects in the Physical Science Study Programme under the World Bank-funded HETC QIG Project (2013-2016), representative of the Faculty of Science to the Township Project at Jaffna Main Campus (2016-2017), Head of the Computer Science Department (2017-2020), Patron of the Computer Society of this university (2017-2020), a member of the UGC's Standing Committee on Computing (2017-2020), a member of the technical evaluation committee for the project of construction of building and other related structures for the DCS appointed by the MoHE (2018). He also serves as Academic Counsellor (2020-2023), Chairperson of the Faculty Newsletter and Student Handbook (2020-2023), Counsellor of the IEEE Student Branch of this university (2020-2021), Senior Treasurer of the Computer Society UoJ (2020-2022), and Senior Treasurer of the IEEE Student Branch UoJ (2021-2022). Currently, he is the Student Counsellor (2024-2025) and Advisor of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Student Branch Chapter of this university (2022 to date). Additionally, he served as the Joint General Chair for the 9th IEEE International Conference on Information and Automation for Sustainability (ICIAfS, 2018) and as the General Chair for the Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS, 2019), the IEEE Summer School on Computational Intelligence: Theory and Applications (2023), and the Google exploreCSR Summer School on Machine Intelligence (GeSSoMI-2024). He served as the Editor for the first Jaffna University International Research Conference (JUICE) 2012. He also co-organised the APAN56 Datathon 2023. Professor Ramanan is also a Senior Member of the IEEE since 2021.

Professor M. Siyamalan holds various administrative and academic positions in the university in chronological order: Treasurer of the Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS, 2019), Senior Treasurer of the IEEE Student Branch UoJ (2020-2021), Counsellor of the IEEE Student Branch of this university (2021-2022), Student Counselor (2022-2023), and Academic Counsellor (2023 to date). In addition, he is one of the Chief Editors of Vingnanam Journal of Science (2021 to date), the Director of the Career Guidance Unit of this university (2023 to date), and the Advisor of the

IEEE Computer Society Student Branch Chapter of this university (2024 to date). Professor Siyamalan is also a Senior Member of the IEEE since 2021.

Dr. K. Thabotharan holds various administrative and academic positions in the university, including the Head of the Computer Science Department (2014-2017), Head of the Computer Unit (2018-2021), and Project Coordinator for both the World Bank-funded ELTA-ELSE HETC (2014-2017) and AHEAD (2018-2023) Projects at the Faculty of Science. He also served as Director of the Career Guidance Unit (October 2020 - September 2023), Director of the Alumni Office (May 2021 to date), Academic Counsellor (2010-2016), and Student Counsellor (2011-2015). Additionally, he was the Coordinator of e-learning for the Staff Development Centre (SDC) at the University of Jaffna (2011-2013), Chairperson of the Curriculum Development Revision and Monitoring Committee (CDRMC) at the Faculty of Science (2020-2022), Deputy Director of Well-Being (WeBe) at the Jaffna Centre (2019- 2022), Senior Treasurer of the Science Students' Union (2018-2022), Patron of the Computer Society of this university (2014-2017), Coordinator for the Knowledge sharing partnership between the University of Jaffna and the World Bank, 2012 to 2014 and the University Coordinator for the foreign students admitted to the University of Jaffna under the president's scholarship scheme (2016 to 2023). He also served as the member of the Campus Board of the Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna (2014 to 2017). Dr. Thabotharan also serves as a Member of the Board of Directors for LEARN (July 2019 to date), a member of the UGC's Standing Committee on Computing (2014-2017), Member of the Team preparing the Self Evaluation Report of the University of Jaffna for the Commonwealth in Learning Review and Implementation Model (COLRIM), 2013, and the Founding Patron of the GenZ Chapter of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) of the University of Jaffna (2022 to date).

Dr. (Mrs.) Barathy Mayurathan holds various administrative and academic positions in the university: Treasurer of the national biennial workshop SL-SWCS (Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science) (2011-2021), Academic Counsellor (2017-2020), Founder Counsellor of the IEEE Student Branch of this university (2018-2020), Founder Advisor of the IEEE

Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Group of this university (2021-2023), Student Counsellor (2021-2022), Senior Treasurer of the IEEE Student Branch UoJ (2022-2023), Head of the Computer Science Department (2023 to date), and Chairperson of the Faculty Newsletter and Student Handbook (2023 to date).

Mr. S. Suthakar holds various administrative and academic positions at the university. He served as the Senior Treasurer of the Computer Society of the University of Jaffna (2018-2019), Patron of the Computer Society UoJ (2020-2023), Head of the Computer Science Department (2020-2023), and a member of the UGC's Standing Committee on Computing (2020-2023). He was a member of the technical evaluation committee for the Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project (STHRD Project), appointed by the Ministry of Education on 21 September 2023, for the procurement of equipment and furniture for the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna. He has been a member of the Digital Transformation Committee of Jaffna District (DDTC), appointed by the District Secretariat of Jaffna (since 2022). Additionally, Mr. S. Suthakar has been instrumental in the process of commencing the Master of Computer Science [MCS], the Master of Science in Computer Science [MSc (CS)], and the Certificate Courses in Computing at the Department of Computer Science in 2024, and has served as the coordinator for their implementation.

Dr. K. Sarveswaran holds various administrative and academic positions at the university. He served as the Activity Coordinator for Enhancing Learning Resources and Learner Support Services under the World Bank funded HETC Project for Improving Relevance & Quality of External Degree Programme (2013-2015). Dr. Sarveswaran established the Learning Management System (LMS) for the University of Jaffna in 2011 and has been maintaining it ever since. He also helps with other systems engineering administration tasks, like setting up servers. He also served as a consultant for the country's first Tamil-medium online Bachelor of Business Management program, started by the University of Jaffna, from 2009 until 2018. Additionally, he served as an LMS

consultant for the Faculty of Agriculture, helping them set up their learning management system. He was the Student Counsellor (2022-2023) and the founder Advisor of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Student branch chapter (2022-2023). In addition, he served as the Faculty Coordinator for the Well-Being Centre (2023-2024) and he was the Branch Counsellor of the IEEE Student Branch of the university (2023-2024). Dr. K. Sarveswaran is also a Senior Member of the IEEE since 2022.

Dr. S. Shriparen is the Senior Treasurer of the IEEE Student Branch of this university (2024).

Dr. T. Kokul holds various academic positions in the university: Senior Treasurer of the Computer Society of this university (2022 to date). He also serves as the Coordinator of e-learning and IT Literacy for the Staff Development Centre (2023 to date) and the Academic Counsellor (2023 to date). Additionally, he serves as the Advisor of the IEEE Computer Society Student Branch Chapter (2023-2024).

Dr. (Ms.) R. Nirthika serves as the Interim Chair of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society of this university (2022). Currently she is the Academic Career Guidance Advisor of the Faculty (2023 to date) and the Advisor of the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Student Branch Affinity Group of this university (2024).

Retired Staff of the Department

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|  | <p>Dr. S. Mahesan BSc Hons (Jaffna), MSc (Cardiff), PhD (Wales) Senior Lecturer, Gr. I Service at DCS: 1990 - 2023</p> | <p>Appointed on 20 October 1982 as an Assistant Lecturer in Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and transferred to the newly established Department of Computer Science on 01 October 1990. Continued his services as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer until retirement on 01 November 2023.</p> |
|  | <p>Mr. M. Rajendram Data Entry Operator - Supra Grade Service at DCS: 1994 - 2018</p> | <p>Appointed in May 1983 as a labourer in Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and promoted as Laboratory attended in the Computer Unit in November 1987, and then promoted as a Data Entry operator in Department of Computer Science in November 1994 continued his service getting promotion to supra-grade and retired from 18 November 2018.</p> |
|  | <p>Mr. P. Amirtharajah Works Aide - Supra Grade Service at DCS: 1994 - 2021</p> | <p>Appointed in August 1993 as a labourer in Maintenance branch and then transferred to the Department of Computer Science in August 1994, and continued his service getting promotion to supra-grade and retired from 26 January 2021.</p> |

Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS)

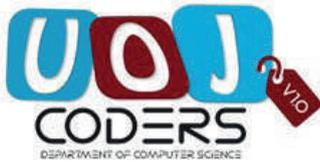


The Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS) is a proud initiative by the Department of Computer Science at the University of Jaffna, designed to be a student-

focused workshop. It was founded by Dr. A. Ramanan with the support of the then Head of the Department of Computer Science, Dr. E.Y.A. Charles, and their colleagues. The inaugural workshop took place in 2011, drawing around 100 participants and marking the first national-level, student-centred event primarily focused on Computer Science students. This first session featured two keynote speakers and 18 poster presentations. Held biennially since its inception, SL-SWCS provides a stimulating opportunity for

young research students across Sri Lanka to engage in discussions with leading researchers from both local and international universities. The workshop allows participants to present their research findings and interact with their scientific peers in a friendly and constructive environment, fostering potential future collaborations. Awards for “Best Presentation” and “Best Poster” are given to student participants, with the winners receiving a cash prize sponsored by the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Melbourne, Australia, through Professor Saman Halgamuge. Long-term sponsors of this national event include 99x and WSO2. Additionally, the logo for SL-SWCS was designed and created by Mr. S. Mayurathan, an alumnus from Batch 17 of the DCS.

UoJCoders Coding Competition



The Department of Computer Science hosts a ‘University of Jaffna coding competition’ known as “UoJCoders,” aimed

at enhancing the problem-solving and programming skills of undergraduate computing students to develop efficient programmers. Inspired by IEEEExtreme, UoJCoders is a 12-hour inter-university coding competition open to all undergraduate students in Sri Lanka, particularly those pursuing computing degrees. The event is conducted online using the HackerRank platform. The inaugural UoJCoders competition took place on March 16-17, 2019, initiated by the DCS under the headship of Dr. A. Ramanan, and expertly organised by the Computer Society, led by Mr. R. Kasthurirajan and his team. The logo for UoJCoders was designed and created by Mr. Ruchira, an alumnus from Batch 09 of the Direct-intake students of the DCS. Since its inception, UoJCoders has been a platform for nurturing coding talent and promoting a culture of competitive programming among the undergraduate community.

The Computer Society of the University of Jaffna



The Computer Society of this university was established in 1993 (as per the 155th Council meeting) under the headship of Dr. S. Kanaganathan, and the Head of the Department also

advised publishing a newsletter named “கணினியம்” (Kananiyam). Unfortunately, many documents were found missing when we returned to the main campus in May 1996, following the mass exodus from the Valikamam area to other areas that occurred in October/November 1995. The documents related to the CompSoc were also among them. Mr. Thabotharan drafted the constitution of the Computer Society in 1998. The society became fully functional, with the election of the first set of office bearers in 1999, and Mr. S. Jeyarajan (Alumnus of the 5th Batch) was elected as the first president of the Computer Society. The crest of the Computer Society was designed and created by Mr. V.P. Sasivarnan, an alumnus of the Faculty of Science. Some of the prominent activities of CompSoc include conducting seminars in remote areas to review ICT subjects and past examination papers for students preparing for the G.C.E. (O/L) and (A/L) examinations, organising workshops for school students and teachers on website development, hosting TechTalks, coding bootcamps, and social gatherings. The CompSoc also celebrates religious festivals, including Thai Pongal and Navarathiri Pooja, fostering a sense of community and cultural diversity among students.

CompSoc Park was created to facilitate students’ independent and group learning, as well as to provide a space for leisure activities. The park was constructed by the DCS and features newly planted mango, neem, teak trees, and crotons, along with newly built stone seats. The park is strategically located in front of the New Science Block and behind the Mathematics Block and offers free Wi-Fi access to the students. The project transformed a small area of bare land into a vibrant and welcoming space for students. The construction was led by Dr. A. Ramanan and overseen by the members of the Computer Society of UoJ under the leadership of Mr. Y. Achchuthan, the then-President of CompSoc, during the headship of Dr. K. Thabotharan. Since its completion, CompSoc Park has become a cherished spot for students, who use it for various activities including celebrating the birthdays of batchmates and teachers. The park’s thoughtful design and amenities have made it an integral part of the campus, enhancing the student experience at the University of Jaffna.

The IEEE Student Branch of the University of Jaffna



The IEEE Student Branch of the University of Jaffna (IEEE-SB-UoJ) was established in September 2018 under the leadership of the then Head of the

Department of Computer Science, Dr. A. Ramanan, with Mr. S.P.D. Anuraj as the founding chairperson and Dr. (Mrs.) B. Mayurathan as the founding counsellor. Initially, the student branch comprised members from the Department of Computer Science, and it has since expanded to include members from the Faculties of Science, Engineering, and Technology. The branch now boasts several chapters and an affinity group, including the Power and Energy Society (PES) Chapter, Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group, Computer Society (CS) Chapter, Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) Chapter, Signal Processing Society (SPS) Chapter, Computational Intelligence Society (CIS) Chapter, and Electron Devices Society and Nanotechnology Council (EDS-NTC) Chapter. With over a hundred undergraduate and graduate members, IEEE-SB-UoJ offers a platform for students to develop innovative ideas and enhance both technical and non-technical skills. With over a hundred undergraduate and graduate members, IEEE-SB-UoJ provides a platform for students to develop their innovative ideas and technical and non-technical skills. The branch is highly active, organising numerous activities throughout the year to bolster the professional and technical skills of both IEEE and non-IEEE members, including those in the region. Its members also participate in national and international committees and volunteer for projects organised by the IEEE Sri Lanka Section and IEEE.

The IEEE-SB-UoJ has received numerous awards and recognitions for its outstanding activities and contributions. In 2023, the branch won the “Outstanding Student Branch Award” and the “Emerging Affinity Group (SB Category) Award” for the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Student Branch Affinity Group at the IEEE Section Awards. In 2022, at the SYWL Congress in South Korea, IEEE-SB-UoJ secured the “IEEE Region 10 Outstanding Student Branch Award” and the “IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award” for its activities in the Asia Pacific Region. In 2021, at the IEEE BOOST Recognition Ceremony and IEEE Sri Lanka Section Awards, the branch was honoured with several accolades:

the “Best Emerging Student Branch Recognition Award”, “First Runner-up of Student Branch Video Contest”, “Best IEEE Andaharaya Event”, “Winner of the Proposal Contest for Membership Development Fund”, and “Special Recognition for Membership Recruitment and Retention.” Additionally, Professor A. Ramanan received the “Outstanding Branch Counsellor Award 2021” at the IEEE Sri Lanka Section Awards. At the 2023 IEEE Sri Lanka Section Awards, the IEEE CIS Student Branch Chapter received the “Emerging Chapter (Student Branch Category) Award”. At the 2024 IEEE Sri Lanka Section Awards, the IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group was honored with the “Emerging Affinity Group (Student Branch Category) Award,” and Dr. (Ms.) R. Nirthika received the “Outstanding Branch Advisor Award” for her role as the Advisor of the IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group at the University of Jaffna. Over the past three years, the branch has secured more than USD 25,000 in competitive grants to carry out various activities targeting university and school students. It is important to acknowledge that a significant contribution has been made by the DCS members. These accolades highlight the branch’s dedication to excellence and its substantial impact within the IEEE community.

Gavel Club at the DCS

In 2019, Ms. Samantha Tharani Jeyakumar played a crucial role in establishing a Gavel Club at the DCS at this university. The primary aim of this initiative was to motivate students to improve their English-speaking skills. By providing a supportive environment for practising public speaking and communication, the Gavel Club has become an invaluable resource for students, enhancing their confidence and proficiency in English. Since its inception, the club has held regular meetings and events, fostering a community of learners dedicated to personal and professional growth.

Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) Signed by the DCS

ICTA Sri Lanka, Dialog Axiata, and CSSL: On August 24, 2022, the DCS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA), Dialog Axiata PLC, and the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) to establish an IoT Innovation Laboratory in the newly constructed DCS building. The MoU signing ceremony included dignitaries from ICTA, CSSL, and Dialog Axiata PLC participating via Zoom from the ICTA Auditorium. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, Professor

S. Srisatkunarajah; the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor P. Ravirajan; the Head of the Department of Computer Science, Mr. S. Suthakar; the Patron of the CSSL GenZ Chapter at the University of Jaffna, Dr. K. Thabotharan; and other DCS staff joined the event via Zoom from the Boardroom of the University of Jaffna. Mr. Jayantha de Silva (Chairman, ICTA), Mr. Damith Hettihewa (President, CSSL), and Mr. Supun Weerasinghe (Director/Group Chief Executive, Dialog Axiata PLC) signed their copies of the MoU from the ICTA Auditorium, while the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna signed another copy. Mr. S.



Suthakar, with crucial support and coordination from Dr. K. Thabotharan, was instrumental in establishing the 'IoT Innovation Lab,' which is equipped with resources worth over LKR 12 million provided by Dialog Axiata PLC as part of the MoU.

University of Konstanz: The University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, and the University of Konstanz, Germany, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 28, 2023, to facilitate research and collaboration in the areas of Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Computational Linguistics. The agreement was signed by the Department of Computer Science (DCS) at the University of Jaffna and the Department of Linguistics at the University of Konstanz, with the objective of promoting mutual cooperation and support in these fields. The MoU will facilitate joint research initiatives, faculty and student exchanges, and collaborative seminars and workshops. The signing ceremony was held at the University of Jaffna and was attended by representatives from both universities, including Professor S. Srisatkunarajah, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, and Professor Dr. Miriam Butt, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Konstanz. The ceremony also included Professor P. Ravirajan, the

Dean of the Faculty of Science, and the head and staff of the DCS at the University of Jaffna. This collaboration is expected to strengthen the research capabilities of both universities, facilitate the sharing



of knowledge and expertise, and contribute to the advancement of NLP and Computational Linguistics. Dr. K. Sarveswaran was instrumental in bringing this MoU between the DCS at the University of Jaffna and the University of Konstanz.

Griffith University: An MoU has been drafted for collaboration between Griffith University and the University of Jaffna. The draft MoU has been approved by the council of the University of Jaffna and is now in the process of obtaining approval from the UGC and the Ministry of Education. This MoU is to establish a legal collaborative relationship in academic and research activities of the two institutions.

DCS Organised National Events

The DCS has been pivotal in organising national events that have significantly influenced Sri Lanka's academic and IT landscapes. In December 2010, the DCS hosted the IEEE International Conference on Information and Automation for Sustainability (ICIAfS) Post Conference Workshop, a landmark event for the Faculty of Science, as it was the first-ever international workshop held there, attracting around 100 students. In December 2014, the DCS organised the largest IT event in the Northern Peninsula, the Jaffna IT Conference, with generous support from SLASSCOM, the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA), the Export Development Board (EDB), and the Ministry of Education (MoE). This event drew over 200 students from across the country and offered deep insights into Sri Lanka's IT industry. More recently, in July 2023, the DCS in collaboration with the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (CIS) Student Branch Chapter of the University

of Jaffna hosted the IEEE Summer School on Computational Intelligence: Theory and Applications (AIGNITE-2023), marking the first such event in Sri Lanka. In June 2024, the DCS, in collaboration with the University of Melbourne and Google Research,

held the “Google exploreCSR Summer School on Machine Intelligence (GeSSoMI-2024),” gathering 111 students for a transformative experience in cutting-edge technologies like Machine Learning and Generative AI, featuring global and local experts.



Participants of the IEEE ICIAfS Post Conference Workshop – 2010



Participants of the AIGNITE Summer School – 2023



Participants of the GeSSoMI Summer School - 2024



School Students for Learning at the DCS



New Building of the DCS



Pioneer Batch of the DCS

For more photos please visit: www.csc.jfn.ac.lk/gallery

Heads of the Department of Computer Science since 1991



Prof. K. Kunaratnam
1991 – 1993



Dr. S. Kanaganathan
1993 - 1996



Dr. S. Mahesan
1996 – 1999
2000 – 2008



Mr. K. Kannan (Acting)
1999 - 2000



Dr. E. Y. A. Charles
2008 - 2014



Dr. K. Thaboathan
2014 - 2017



Prof. A. Ramanan
2017 - 2020



Mr. S. Suthakar
2020 - 2023



Dr. (Mrs) B. Mayurathan
2023 – to date

Academic Staff of the Department



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Professor in Computer Science
BSc Hons (Jaffna),
PhD (Southampton), SMIEEE



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MSc (Moratuwa)
PhD (Moratuwa), CLP,
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Ph.L. (Uppsala), PhD (Colombo),
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Non-academic Staff



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BSc (Jaffna)



Mrs. A. Vahini
Management Assistant Gr. III
BBA Hons (Jaffna)



Mr. N. Thileepan
Staff Management Assistant



Mr. A. Arulnesan
Laboratory Attendant Gr. III

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

University of Jaffna

About the Department of Fisheries

The Department of Fisheries emerged from the Centre for Development of Fisheries, which was founded through the dedicated efforts of Prof. K. Chitravadivelu in 1998. The primary aim of the Centre was to offer a Diploma in Fisheries Science course, focusing on capacity development within fishing communities. Due to the high demand for this diploma and the introduction of new degree programs in fisheries and aquatic sciences at other Universities in Sri Lanka, there was a recognized need for similar degree programs in the northern province. Therefore, being the then Head of the Department of Zoology and chairperson of the subcommittee to establish Department of Fisheries, senior Professor Sivashanthini Kuganathan, in association with another five staff members of Zoology Department, formulated and submitted a proposal to offer Fisheries Science as a principal subject for biological science students to the faculty board in 2007, at the request of the then acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof.R.Kumaravadivel. This proposal received swift approval from the faculty board, senate, and council of the University of Jaffna. Subsequently, the Standing Committee of the University Grants Commission (UGC) approved a four-year honours degree curriculum to commence a Bachelor of Science Honours in Fisheries Science, and the establishment of the Department of Fisheries was notified by Gazette on June 5, 2009. The Department of Fisheries officially began its operations on August 1, 2009, with Prof. Sivashanthini Kuganathan, a staff from the Zoology Department, as the founder and head of the department.

Since its establishment, the Department of Fisheries offered a BScHons in Fisheries Science, for Biological Sciences stream students under the Faculty of Science and an MPhil programme in Fisheries Science under the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The BSc general degree programme spans three years, while the BScHons degree is a four-year programme that includes research and internship components. The diploma in Fisheries Science, offered since 1998, was discontinued in 2012 due to a lack of human and infrastructure resources once the new degree program was accommodated.

The undergraduate curriculum is designed with a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating marine biology, fisheries biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, microbiology, oceanography, limnology, ecology, fishery economics, social science, aquatic toxicology, and fisheries statistics. These courses, crafted by expert panels led by Prof. Sivashanthini Kuganathan, aim to equip graduates with a broad knowledge base and critical thinking skills, preparing them to address emerging issues in the fisheries sector. The MPhil programme is designed to tackle emerging fisheries and aquatic-related issues in the northern region of Sri Lanka. It focuses on scientifically identifying problems and solutions, contributing to sustainable development in the region and the broader fisheries sector.

During the first three years, academic activities were supported by lecturers from other departments, including Prof. Noble Surendran, Prof. Eswaramohan, Dr. Abiramy, Mr. Venkatesh Luckshman from the Zoology Department, and Prof. Thavaranjit and Dr. (Ms.) Krishnapillai from the Botany Department. Later, the department was compelled to manage the general and honours degree programmes by utilising temporary and visiting lecturers. The challenges faced in conducting lectures and practical classes were transformed into strong requests to the UGC to create new cadres but none of them were successful during that time. In 2014, University administration requested the UGC to convert three Dean's Office temporary cadres to permanent cadres and got the approval from them and allocated for the newly established Fisheries Department with the wholehearted agreement of the then Dean of the Faculty of Science Prof. K. Kandsamy. Realising the difficulties faced by the then Head of the Department, Prof. Mrs.S.Kuganathan, the then Vice Chancellor, Professor Vasanthi Arasaratnam, Senior Professor of Biochemistry requested the UGC to grant permission to transfer her to the Department of Fisheries from the Department of Zoology. It was successful and she was transferred to the Department of Fisheries on 01st May 2014 and occupied the one permanent cadre. For the remaining two cadres, two additional lecturers were recruited in 2015, they were Mrs. Sutharshini Sathyaruban, who had served as a

temporary assistant lecturer since the department's inception, and Mr. Kuddithamby Gunaalan, who had been serving as a visiting lecturer since 2012.

Only one student entered the honours degree programme in 2012, and in the following year, four students were selected. The honours degree programme was fully supported and facilitated by visiting lecturers. Visiting lecturers from Universities across Sri Lanka, such as Prof. Udeni Edirisinghe from the University of Peradeniya (2013 – to date), Dr. Arivalakan from the University of Jaffna (2014), Dr. Chinthaka Perera (2013 – to date), Dr. Guruge from the University of Ruhuna (2014 – to date), Mr. Nuwan from the University of Uva Wellassa (2014 – 2022), Prof. Jeyakodi from the University of Wayamba (2019 – 2022), and Prof. Pathmalal from the University of Sri Jayawardenapura (2022), have all contributed to the honours degree program. Due to high job demand, the department's student population has grown, leading to the recruitment of Mr. Nadarajah Ragavan, Mrs. Shobiya Gobiraj, and Mrs. Thapeetha Arudselven as lecturers in 2018, 2019, and 2021, respectively. This was possible with the newly provided three cadres by the UGC after an expert team visit to all Sri Lankan Universities in 2017, to revise the cadres.

The Department of Fisheries faced significant challenges due to limited infrastructure for conducting lectures and practicals. Since its inception, lectures have been conducted in the 1200 square feet Centre for Development of Fisheries, Lecture hall. Adjacent to it there is another 1200 square feet office space which served as an office, administrative and staff area. The Zoology Department provided laboratory spaces for practical sessions from 2009 to 2012.

In 2013, the old Health Centre building was allocated as a laboratory for Fisheries Science students by the then Dean, Faculty of Science. However, it was assigned to construct a new building for the Department of Computer Science which was demolished in 2019 and the Fisheries Science laboratory was moved to the old diploma in Fisheries Science building behind the Chemistry Department in 2014. After persistent efforts by Prof. Sivashanthini Kuganathan, a space was allocated in the newly constructed Natural Science Block (NSB II) in 2015, with the support of the then Dean, Faculty of Science Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah.

Despite these efforts, office space and staff rooms remained insufficient and unsuitable for confidential

tasks such as paper setting and corrections, as it was an open space where anyone could enter and exit. This led to a rented temporary relocation to the first house of Kumarasamy Lane in 2020 with the extended support of the then Dean and the then Competent Authority. The scattered locations of the department's facilities and limited lecture hall and laboratory spaces have restricted the student intake, with a maximum of 40 students per batch.

During this period, the Department facilitated the graduation of numerous students through the degree programme. From 1998 to 2012, 480 students graduated with a diploma in Fisheries Science course. Since the inception of the degree programmes, more than 400 students have majored in fisheries science as part of their undergraduate studies. The department has produced 50 Fisheries Science honours degree graduates and 11 MPhil graduates, with 8 students currently working under the projects handled by the Department. Remarkably, 98% of our graduates are now employed in government and private sectors, 25% of our graduates have pursued further education and 42 % of them have obtained postgraduate degrees in foreign countries. This success underscores the department's commitment to providing high-quality education and training, equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their careers and contribute to the sustainable development of the fisheries sector.

The Department of Fisheries facilitates two overseas training/research programmes: the GRO-FTP (formerly UNU FTP) and the NOR LANKA BLUE project, both offering full scholarships. Since 2018, five undergraduates have received full scholarships to participate in the six-month UNESCO-GRO Fisheries Training Program (GRO-FTP) in Iceland. Additionally, nine MPhil students have been awarded scholarships to attend a five-month mobility training programme with coursework at Tromso University, Norway, under the NOR-LANKA Blue project since 2019. These programmes provided foreign exposure and opportunities to conduct research under the guidance of world-renowned scientists in fisheries and related fields.

Despite the small number of staff in the Department of Fisheries within the Faculty of Science, the Department produced high-quality research through several grants. The department's staff have been

awarded 22 research grants to conduct multidisciplinary research in fisheries and marine-related sectors, aiming to develop sustainable fisheries, manage the environment effectively, and enhance community livelihoods.

Major research projects include Prof. Sivashanthini Kuganathan's MFF project on identifying potential sites for sea cucumber culture in 2014, which revolutionised the farming industry, and a project on renovating freshwater tanks in Delft Island, providing clean water for local residents. Another notable project involved utilising palmyra fruit as an ingredient for fish feeds, emerging as a cost-effective feeding method in aquaculture carried out by Sutharshini Sathyaruban.

The department has published 9 books, 2 book chapters, 69 peer-reviewed journal articles, 93 abstracts, 5 short communications, and 9 magazine and paper articles, disseminating knowledge to both the scientific community and the public. This body of work underscores our commitment to advancing the field of fisheries science and contributing to sustainable practices and community development.

Of the staff members recruited Kuddithamby Gunaalan completed his PhD at Technical University of Denmark and returned for work in February 2024, Sutharshini Sathyaruban submitted her PhD thesis at University of Sri Jayawardenapura, returned for work and assumed duties as the second Head of the Department in August 2024, Mr. Nadarajah Ragavan is writing his PhD thesis and about to submit it to the University of Sri Jayawardenapura shortly, Mrs. Shobya Gobiraj completed her MPhil degree at University of Jaffna with the mobility training offered under NORLANKA BLUE project had been trained for 5 months at University of Tromso and returned for work in August 2022 and Mrs. Thapeetha Arudselven is awarded a scholarship to pursue Masters in Aquaculture and Aquatic resource management at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and proceeded to Thailand on study leave in August 2024. All these promotional events could be severely admired for the solo efforts and leadership of the founder head Prof. Sivashanthini Kuganathan amidst all the challenges and struggles.

Apart from routine activities, the Department of Fisheries seriously focuses on community development and environmental monitoring, utilising the knowledge and research skills of students and

staff. The department conducts ongoing monitoring of marine environments and fisheries ecosystems, involving undergraduate and postgraduate students in field visits and research activities. Key focus areas include the shrimp fishery in the Jaffna Peninsula, beach pollution analysis, and climate change impacts assessed through satellite and in-situ monitoring. Additionally, the department analyzes primary productivity and plankton diversity. This comprehensive monitoring enables the department to issue precautionary warnings based on research findings, including alerts for harmful algal blooms, fishing mortalities, invasive species, and overfishing, thus safeguarding fishers, tourists, and the local economy.

The department also actively participates in community development initiatives, empowering fishing communities by imparting scientific knowledge and fostering skill development to broaden livelihood opportunities and increase resilience to future challenges. These initiatives include organizing beach cleaning campaigns to promote environmental health and enhancing student skills through webinars and expert talks. By integrating research and community outreach, the department demonstrates its commitment to using scientific advancements for practical applications that benefit both the environment and the local community.

Despite significant achievements in research, awards, and international training opportunities for students, the Department of Fisheries continues to face challenges due to a lack of centralised infrastructure. Limited to one lecture hall, one large laboratory, one small research lab, one equipment room, one conference hall, and one wet lab, the department's teaching and learning capabilities are severely restricted, which also limits student intake for the degree program. Although land has been allocated for constructing a four-storey department building, the department is actively seeking funding and grant support to achieve this project.

If the proposed building becomes true, it would enable increased student intake, the recommencement of the diploma programme to develop the capacity of fishers and other stakeholders, and the introduction of two new applied science programmes: Sustainable Ocean and Aquaculture Management, and Ocean Science and Marine Conservation. The Department achieved many accomplishments with limited resources, but the lack of adequate facilities continues

to hinder its staff's full potential. With the necessary infrastructure, the Department can expand the educational offerings and further enhance its contributions to the field of fisheries science and community development.

International Collaborations and Capacity Development for Fisheries Science Students

Through strategic international collaborations, the Department of Fisheries at the University of Jaffna offers its students invaluable opportunities to enhance their academic and professional skills in fisheries science. These partnerships provide access to advanced training programmes, research opportunities, and exchange programmes, enabling our students to gain global perspectives and expertise. By participating in these initiatives, students are better equipped to contribute to sustainable fisheries management and the development of marine resources in Sri Lanka. The department remains committed to fostering these opportunities, ensuring our graduates are prepared to tackle the challenges of the fisheries sector.

UNU-FTP/ GRO-FTP

The UNU-FTP/GRO-FTP is an advanced six-month graduate fisheries training program held in Iceland, in collaboration with the University of Iceland, the University of Akureyri, Matis, and the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute. The program includes intensive coursework and a research project, aimed at enhancing resource management capacities in developing countries. Since 2018, five candidates from the Department of Fisheries, University of Jaffna have successfully completed this program.

| Name | Specialisation | Year |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|
| Mr. Nadarajah Ragavan | Fisheries Policy and Management | 2018/19 |
| Ms. Thapeethe Arudselven | Quality Management of Fish Handling and Processing | 2019/20 |
| Ms. Dhanushka Dilini Jayaweera | Quality Management of Fish Handling and Processing | 2022/23 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------|
| Ms. Moksha S. Usgoda | Quality Management of Fish Handling and Processing | 2023/24 |
| Mr. Gobiraj Ramejeyam | Aquatic Resource Assessment and Monitoring | 2023/24 |

NORLANKA BLUE PROJECT

Partner for NORPART grant (NORPART-2018/10045) titled "NORLANKABLUE - Innovative network in fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic science". It is a collaborative project funded by the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (Diku) awarded to Arctic University of Norway (UiT) in collaboration with University of Ruhuna (UoR), University of Jaffna (UoJ) and the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA). Under this grant UiT and the collaborative Universities jointly secured a grant over the period of five years (2019 – 2023) under the above theme.

The following nine graduates have been awarded to undergo a one-semester exchange study programme at UiT, Norway, under the NOR-LANKABLUE project. They followed master degree course modules for 30 European credits at the UiT.

| Name of student | Year |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Ms. S. Saruga | 2019 |
| Ms. P. Gowsala | |
| Ms. P. Shobiya | 2020 |
| Ms. J.G.B.D.D. Jayaweera | |
| Mr. P.M.R.C.S.B. Pallemulla | |
| Ms. S. Uventhikka | 2022 |
| Ms. K. Sivagini | |
| Ms. N.M.I. Anjalie | 2023 |
| Ms. C.N.S. Wijesundara | |

Research grants

Prof. Mrs. Sivashanthini Kuganathan

1. Principal - investigator of the research project titled "Fishes of the Jaffna lagoon". Financially supported by University of Jaffna in 1998: Completed successfully (Research station: University of Jaffna). (Amount 25000/=).
2. Co-investigator of the research project titled "Status and taxonomy of Herpetofauna and their conservation in Jaffna peninsula" since February 2006, financially supported by National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka [RG/2003/ZOO/07]: Completed successfully. (Research station: University of Jaffna). (Amount 437,540/=).
3. "Principal investigator for the research project "Lipid deposition and depletion in relation to sexual maturity and spawning in *Scomberoids lysan* (Carangidae)" funded by National Research Council, Colombo, Sri Lanka [grant No: 07-19]. (Research station: University of Jaffna). (Amount 2,309,000/=).
4. Principal - investigator of the research project titled "Systematics and population dynamics of squids from the northern coastal waters of Sri Lanka". Financially supported by National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka [RG/2006/MS/01]: Completed successfully. (Research station: University of Jaffna). (Amount 1,554,720/=).
5. Principal - investigator of the research project titled "Reproductive biology of *Gerres oblongus* from the Jaffna lagoon". Financially supported by Faculty of Graduate Studies research grant, University of Jaffna: Completed successfully. (Research station: University of Jaffna). (Amount 84,500/=).
6. Principal – investigator of the research project titled "Potential for sea cucumber culture from the Jaffna lagoon". Financially supported by IUCN- MFF [MFF/98]. Completed successfully. [Research station: University of Jaffna]. (Amount 1,413,830/=).
7. Principal – investigator of the research project titled "Diversity and the antimicrobial activity of sea grasses in the coastal region of Jaffna Peninsula". Financially supported by University research grant – 2014 (URG/2014/SEIT/03).

Completed successfully. [Research station: University of Jaffna]. (Amount 493,150/=).

8. Principal – investigator of the research project titled "Mapping of ponds / waterholes and restoration of a selected pond at the Delft Island". Financially supported by IUCN- MFF [MFF/07]. Completed successfully. [Research station: University of Jaffna]. (Amount 2,431,334/=).
9. Principal – investigator of the research project titled "Assessing the quality and quantity of coral DNA by conventional agarose gel electrophoresis method". Financially supported by University research grant – 2018 (URG/2018/SEIT/01). Completed successfully. [Research station: University of Jaffna]. (Amount 800,000/=).
10. Principal – investigator of the research project titled "Identification of cryptic sea cucumber species in Northern Province using DNA barcoding". Financially supported by University research grant – 2019 (URG/2019/SEIT/25). Work in Progress. [Research station: University of Jaffna]. (Amount 800,000/=).

Mrs. Sutharshiny Sathyaruban

1. Principal - investigator of the research project titled "Evaluation of shelf life for commercially important food fishes and shell fishes in the Jaffna Peninsula during ice storage (Research station: University of Jaffna: URG/2015/01). (Amount 500,040/=). (Completed)
2. Principal investigator of the research project titled "Effect of natural carotenoid for enhancing colouration and growth in goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)" (URG/2018/SEIT/02) (Amount 800,000/=) (Completed)
3. "Principal Investigator of the research titled "A comparative study on isolation of DNA from fin, scale and tissues of cryptic ornamental fishes in Jaffna Peninsula" (URG/2019/SEIT/22) (Amount 900,000/=). (Completed)
4. Principal Investigator of the research titled "Formulation of practical diets for swordtails *Xiphophorus helleri* (Poeciliidae) for growth and colour optimization using mathematical modelling" (URG/2021/SEIT/30) (Amount 797,000 /=) (Completed.)

5. Principal Investigator of the research titled “Enhancing the skin colouration of ornamental fishes using palmyrah fruit” (AHEAD/RA3/UBL/JFN/OVAA/23) (Amount 91,500/=) Completed
6. “Financial assistance by UGC for PhD studies titled “Efficiency of skin colouration, immune response and growth in Guppy, swordtail and platyfish species fed with locally formulated diet using palmyrah fruit pulp, seaweed and shrimp shells” amounting Rs. 2,767,642.28 in 2021 (in Progress)

Dr. Kuddithamby Gunaalan

1. Principal - investigator of the research project titled “Water quality assessment of Ponds at Delft Island, Jaffna (Research station: University of Jaffna: URG/2015/01). (Amount 800,040/=). (Completed)

Mr. Nadarajah Ragavan

1. Principal - investigator of the research project titled “Quantitative and qualitative assessment of genomic DNA extracted from cryptic *Sardinella* species: PCR optimization” (Research station: University of Jaffna: URG/2021/SEIT/25). (Amount 806,200/=). (Completed)

Mr. Khalingarajah Harichandra

1. University Business Linkage (UBL) competitive research grant amounting to 100,000.00 LKR from the University of Jaffna for developing a “smart faucet.(AHEAD/RA3/UBL/JFN/OVAA/01)”

Awards and fellowship

Prof. (Mrs.) Sivashanthini Kuganathan

1. Awarded a KORDI – UNU International Fellowship to attend two weeks training on Passive air sampling: long range transport of pollutants.
2. Awarded MoES, CSIR New Delhi and TNSCST Chennai fellowship to visit PG Research
3. Department of Zoology, Government Arts College (Autonomous), Kumbakonam – 612 001, Tamil Nadu, India and to attend International workshop on fish taxonomy from 21st – 23rd March 2012
4. SUSRED award – 2012, under Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degree in

recognition of the supervision of M.Phil titled “Population dynamics of *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* (Cephalopoda: Loliginidae) from the Jaffna lagoon” by the National Science Foundation, Colombo

5. SUSRED award-2014, under Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degree (SUSRED) in recognition of the supervision of M.Phil titled “Reproductive characteristics of *Scomberoides lysan* (Forsskal, 1775) (Pisces: Carangidae) from the waters around Jaffna Peninsula, Sri Lanka” by the National Science Foundation, Colombo on the 23rd day of December 2014.
6. SUSRED award 2014, under Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degree (SUSRED) in recognition of the supervision of M.Phil titled “Lipid changes in relation to sexual maturity and spawning in *Scomberoides lysan* (Carangidae) from waters around the Jaffna peninsula, Sri Lanka” by the National Science Foundation, Colombo on the 23rd day of December 2014.
7. Long service award by University of Jaffna – 2019

Mrs. Sutharshiny Sathyaruban

1. “UNU – UNESCO International Fellowship to attend two weeks training programme on “mangrove biodiversity” at Annamalai University, India in 2015.
2. THE IOC/IODE/OCEANTEACHER GLOBAL ACADEMY: OTGA-INOS/UMT Training Course: Foundations of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: 18 - 22 November 2018, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia.
3. Best Oral Presentation award – first runner up – Virtual 13th AFAF – 2 nd June 2022.
4. PhD mobility training fellowship at UiT, Norway under NORPART Project - 2022

Dr. Gunaalan Kuddithamby

1. Travel grant for the PICES/ICES 7th International Zooplankton Production Symposium (Hobart, Australia) by Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)

2. PhD Scholarship by Technical University of Denmark 2020-2023
3. Water and Society (WaSo) Fellowship for “Water and Wastewater Management”, A summer school from 18/06/2017 to 07/07/2017 at Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) and The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), Norway 2011).
4. Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Scholarship for MSc in Water and Coastal Management 2018-2020.

Mr. Ragavan Nadarajah

1. Fellow, Fishery Oceanography for UN Ocean Decade (F.O.O.D) course conducted by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in Hyderabad, India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (2024)
2. Fellow, Fisheries policy and management course conducted United Nation Fisheries Training Programme (UNUFTP) in Iceland (2018-2019)

Mrs. Shobiya Gobiraj

1. Fellow, student exchange mobility under NORLANKA BLUE project to University of Tromso in 2020.

Mrs. Thapeetha Arudselven

1. Fellow, Quality management and fish handling course conducted United Nation Fisheries Training Programme (UNUFTP) in Iceland (2019-2020).
2. Asian Development Bank - Japan Scholarship Programme (ADB-JSP) for M.Sc in Aquaculture and Aquatic resources management at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand (2024).

Mr. Khalingarajah Harichandra

1. Gold Medal in 8th International Invention Innovation Competition in Canada, iCAN 2023 on 26th August, 2023 conducted by Toronto International Society of Innovation & Advanced Skills (Tisias) Toronto, On, Canada. for developing a “smart faucet v2.0.”
2. Gold Medal in the Island-wide Invention and Innovation Competition titled “SAHASAK NIMAVUM-2020” for an “automated hand washing station” under the ‘public works and infrastructure engineering’ subcategory of University and Tertiary Educational Institutes in the year 2020.
3. National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka under the provisions of Code of intellectual property Act no 52 of 1979. An automated faucet with an integral liquid washing dispenser for regulated handwashing (Patent No: 21588-2022.06.21) International Patent Classification (IPC): E 03C1/05, F16K 31/02

ALUMNA ACHIEVEMENT

| Name | Scholarship Achievement | Status |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Mr. D.M. Rajitha Dissanayake | Belt and Road Master’s Fellowship for Master’s in Marine Sciences at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China | Completed in 2021 (2019-2021) |
| Mrs. C.P. Kumarasinghe | Belt and Road Master’s Fellowship for Master’s in Marine Sciences at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China | Completed in 2021 (2019-2021) |
| Ms. A.M. Harsha Dilrukshi | Prestigious Scholarship Programme for Master’s in Science Sustainability and Management at the University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom | 2022-2024 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Mr. D.M. Rajitha Dissan-ayake | Full Scholarship for Master’s by Research Program at the Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada | 2023-2025 |
| Ms. Malsha Nuwanthi | La Trobe University Excellence Scholarship for Master’s in Biotechnology at La Trobe University, Australia | 2023-2025 |
| Ms. Shri sayanutha Johnson | Azad Moulana Scholarship for MSc in Marine Biology at Cochin University of Science and Technology, India | 2024-2026 |
| Ms. Abiramy Ravitharan | Erasmus Mundus Joint Master’s in Aquaculture, Environment, and Society in Europe | 2024-2026 |
| Ms. Jasmin Ruvini Tissera | LUT scholarship for M.Sc in Sustainability science and solutions at Lappeenranta Lahti University of Technology (LUT), Finland | 2024-2026 |
| Mrs. Thapeetha Arudselven | Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Programme (ADB-JSP) for MSc in Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand | 2024-2026 |

Patent and Gold Medal for New Invention by Mr. K. Harichandra, Technical Officer in Fisheries



Mr. K. Harichandra, a Technical Officer in Fisheries at the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, invented “An automated faucet with an integral liquid washing dispenser for regulated handwashing” and submitted it under the ‘Safety & Security’ category for the year 2023 for the “iCAN-

2023” competition, the 8th International Invention Innovation Competition held in Toronto, Canada on August 26, 2023. He achieved remarkable success in the competition by winning three prestigious international awards, including a Gold Medal with a special award (2 Medals and 3 certificates).

1. iCAN Gold Medal: Awarded by the Toronto International Society of Innovation & Advanced Skills (TISIAS).
2. Canadian Special Award - Gold Medal - (TISIAS).
3. FIRI Award (International special award for the best Invention): Awarded by The First Institute of Inventors and Researchers in I.R. IRAN (FIRI).



He obtained a patent for his invention granted by the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka under the provisions of the Code of Intellectual Property Act No. 52 of 1979 (Patent No: 21588, Date of Patent: 2022.06.21, Date of Filing: 2021.02.08). Remarkably, this is the very 1st patent in Jaffna University history.

Additionally, he participated in an Inventions and Innovations competition known as “Sahasak Nimavum-2020” on June 26, 2020, conducted by the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission and won a Gold Medal.

Outreach Activities

Thinking of Higher Education: NOR Lanka Blue WP5 - 2024



A workshop was conducted for professionals and academic experts under the NORPART Project titled “Thinking of Higher Education”. The workshop included discussions on critical aspects of higher education, covering organizational and technological

Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

considerations, intersectionality, and student mobility. It was organised by a dedicated team led by Prof. Sivashanthini Kuganathan (PI/UoJ) and took place at Hotel East Lagoon in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, from July 23rd to 24th, 2024. The workshop had 28 participants who actively participated in the two-day sessions. The event included three keynote speeches, eleven invited lectures including panel discussions from experts from Norway and Sri Lanka. Four PIs facilitated the sessions. The interactive nature of the sessions facilitated fruitful discussions and the sharing of valuable insights for all participants.

Contribute to Stakeholder Discussion on New National Fisheries Regulation - 2024

Our department staff actively participated in the stakeholder discussion on the new national fisheries regulations and contributed towards addressing various fisheries-related issues in the Northern Province in March 2024.

Feasibility Study on Mannar Wind Power - 2022

Prof. (Mrs.) S. Kuganathan participated in the experts' visit for outcome-based research, including public discussions and community consultations, and found some critical information for the mega-project titled "Mannar Wind Power Project". She analysed the possibility of fishing yield reduction due to wind power development and submitted a report to the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA)

Investigation on Massive Fish Dead - 2022

Prof. (Mrs.) S. Kuganathan investigated the cause of a massive fish death at Thondaimanaru Lagoon, Jaffna, on 30 July 2022, along with other staff members from the Department of Fisheries and submitted a detailed report to the Chairman of NARA.

Evaluation of the Impacts of Covid-19 - 2021

The Department of Fisheries, University of Jaffna, in collaboration with the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), evaluated the impacts of COVID-19 in the northern province fisheries sector in March and April 2021.

Investigation on Red Tide - 2021

On 28th March 2021, during a regular coastal water monitoring program, a prominent discolouration of the Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

surface seawater was noticed in the KKS beach, Sri Lanka. The inshore coastal waters of the sea turned to red. The Department of Fisheries staff and students actively involved in identifying the cause of this red tide, identified and wrote an article on it.

Massive Accumulation of Fresh water Plants - 2021

The Department of Fisheries investigated the massive accumulation of freshwater plants from India on the northern coast in October 2021. The results were shared with the NARA, and an article has been prepared for publication in a local magazine.

The Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Kilinochchi, assessed the massive drift of seaweeds in some parts of the Kilinochchi coastal region in November 2021. The Department initiated a study with honours degree students to analyse the situation in the Kilinochchi district.

Blue Flag Programme - 2020

Prof. (Mrs.) S. Kuganathan served as a Professional Advisor for the Blue Flag programme led by Marine Environment Protection Authority regional office in Jaffna for an awareness programme at the Karainagar DS Office regarding the marine environmental resources and their status at Casuarina to the public on 03 March 2020.

Fisheries Extension Programme 2015

The department conducted a fisheries extension program titled "Green Fishing for the Future," organized and sponsored by ZOA, Jaffna, on September 26th, 2015.

A workshop on "Improving the quality of Dry fish production and management" was conducted in Mullaithivu District by the Department staff and Fisheries Science Society on 14th March 2015 as Social Relation Activity (SAR) with sponsors of PARCIC and ARAM foundation (Trincomalee).

Fisheries Science Society

The Fisheries Science Society, established in 2014 at the University of Jaffna, is a student organization dedicated to fostering the academic, professional, and



social development of its members, who are pursuing general and honors degrees in fisheries science. The

society's mission is to enhance students' skills while actively contributing to the local community through improved living standards and livelihood opportunities. By organizing a diverse range of events and initiatives, the society provides students with opportunities to engage with experts, deepen their knowledge, and participate in critical discussions on fisheries management and marine conservation.

A cornerstone of the society's efforts is the annual publication of the "Kadalosai" magazine, which offers a platform for students to present their research findings, insights, and creative work related to fisheries science. Additionally, the society organizes

webinars and guest lectures featuring prominent experts in the field, granting students exposure to cutting-edge research and industry practices. The World Ocean Day celebration, a flagship event, has become a major highlight of the academic calendar, with activities and competitions designed to promote marine conservation awareness and critical thinking.

The society also fosters gender equality and teamwork through events such as "Aqua Crick," a cricket tournament that brings together staff and students. This event not only provides an enjoyable means of building relationships but also underscores the importance of collaboration and mutual respect in the department staff and students. Committed to community service, the society collaborates with local communities to address emerging issues in the fisheries industry and develop sustainable solutions.

Heads of the Department of Fisheries (2009 - present)



Prof. Mrs. S. Kuganathan
August 2009 - July 2024



Mrs. S. Sathyaruban
August 2024 - to date

Staff Profile – Department of Fisheries

Academic Staff



Prof. (Mrs.) S. Kuganathan
 BSc Hons (Jaffna)
 MSc (North Wales, UK)
 PhD (Annamalai, India)
Chair & Senior Professor



Mr. N. Ragavan
 BSc Hons (Jaffna)
 MSc (SJP)
Lecturer



Mrs. S. Sutharshiny
 BSc Hons (Jaffna)
 MPhil (Jaffna)
Senior Lecturer



Mrs. S. Gobiraj
 BSc Hons (Jaffna)
 M.Phil (Jaffna)
Senior Lecturer



Dr. K. Gunaalan
 BSc Hons (Ruhunu)
 MSc (Bologna, Italy)
 PhD (DTU, Denmark)
Lecturer



Mrs. T. Arudselven
 BSc Hons (Jaffna)
Lecturer



Support Staff



Mr. K. Harichandra
 Technical Officer



Mr. T. Partheepan
 Technical Officer



Mrs. J. Roshanth
 Management Assistant



Ms. A. Niroshna
 Laboratory Attendant



Mr. N. Vijitharan
 Laboratory Attendant

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

University of Jaffna

The Department began functioning in September 1974 in the undergraduate section of Jaffna College, which had been incorporated into the Jaffna Campus. In 1978, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics relocated to Thirunelvely and was temporarily housed in the Health Centre and the Physics Block. The foundational work for the Department was completed in 1980. The ground floor of the Mathematics Block was finished in April 1983, allowing the Department to occupy this space due to a severe shortage of room within the Faculty. The first and second floors of the Mathematics and Statistics Block were completed and handed over for Department use in May 1985.

Mr. V. Varatharajaperumal and Mr. J. Sathiadas, who had been part of the undergraduate section at Jaffna College, were appointed as Probationary Assistant Lecturer and Instructor, respectively, effective from October 1, 1974. Dr. J. B. Selliah, formerly Vice President of the undergraduate department at Jaffna College, was also appointed as a Senior Lecturer in Statistics. On October 1, 1974, Prof. P. Kanagasabapathy, Head of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Peradeniya, was appointed as the first Dean of the Faculty of Science and Head of the Department.

In 1975, Mr. V. Varatharajaperumal and Mr. K. G. Jinadasa went on study leave to the Indian Statistical Institute. The following appointments were made in 1975: Mr. K. Jinadasa (Instructor), Mr. A. Easwarathan (Probationary Assistant Lecturer), Mr. S. Ganesalingam (Probationary Assistant Lecturer), Miss T. Ponnudurai (Probationary Assistant Lecturer), and Mr. M. Z. N. Malhardeen (Probationary Assistant Lecturer). In 1976, Mr. S. Jeyarajah was appointed as a Probationary Assistant Lecturer. Prof. P. Kanagasabapathy, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, passed away on January 23, 1977. His dedicated service is remembered, and in his honour, the Mathematics Lecture Hall was named "Kanagasabapathy Hall."

Prof. V. Tharmaratnam joined the Department from the University of Colombo in March 1978 and assumed

duties as Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Prof. Tharmaratnam also served as the Dean of the Faculty of Science for three years, starting in 1978. In the same year, the following staff members were appointed as Probationary Assistant Lecturers: Mr. R. Shivajee, Mr. A. Thavaneswaran, Mr. K. Sritharan, and Mr. M. Skantharajah. During this year, Mr. K. G. Jinadasa, previously an Instructor, was also appointed as a Probationary Assistant Lecturer. In 1978, Mr. S. Jeyarajah obtained a fellowship at the University of Dundee, and Mr. R. Shivaji received a fellowship at Heriot-Watt University. Mr. S. Kanaganathan, a Lecturer from the Peradeniya Campus, joined the Department in 1979.

In 1980, Mr. A. Easwarathan, Mr. A. Thavaneswaran, and Mr. K. Sritharan, went on study leave to Adelphi University, the University of Waterloo, and Heriot-Watt University, respectively. In 1981, Mr. M. Skantharajah and Mrs. S. Selvanathan, both Probationary Assistant Lecturers, went on study leave to the University of Alberta, Canada, and Murdoch University, Australia, respectively. During this year, Dr. S. Ganesalingam, Dr. (Mrs.) T. Nadesalingam (nee Ponnudurai), and Dr. R. Shivaji received their doctorates from the University of Queensland, the University of Adelaide, and Heriot-Watt University, respectively.

In 1982, Mr. S. Mahesan, Mr. V. Jeyakumar, and Mr. S. Velumylum were appointed as Probationary Assistant Lecturers. Prof. J. B. Selliah, Head of the Department, went on sabbatical leave in September 1983 to the Department of Applied Statistics at the University of Reading, England, and Mr. P. Makinan was appointed as Head of the Department. Dr. M. Z. N. Malhardeen, Lecturer, resigned from his post effective August 1, 1983. Mr. S. Ganesanadan, Probationary Assistant Lecturer, left the Department on study leave under the Colombo Plan scholarship and joined the University of Reading to pursue a MSc in Applied Statistics.

In 1984, Mr. S. Srisatkunarajah and Mr. T. Maheswaran were appointed as Probationary Assistant Lecturers. Prof. J. B. Selliah returned from the University of Reading, U.K., and subsequently resigned from his position, effective December 31, 1984.

In 1985, Dr. M. R. R. Hoole was appointed as a Lecturer in the Department. During this year, the Department introduced a self-paid computer extension course, conducted by Mr. S. Kanaganathan, Mr. S. Yogarajah, Miss. R.T. Nadaraj and Mr. S. Mahesan. This Course not only created computer awareness but also provided financial support to the Department. Mr. S. Mahesan went to Cardiff, UK for MSc in Computing under the commonwealth scholarship.

In 1986, Miss K. Thiagarajah, a Probationary Assistant Lecturer, left for Canada for postgraduate studies. Mr. S. Mahesan returned to the Department after earning his MSc in Computer Science in the U.K., sponsored by the British Council through the University Grants Commission. Miss Z. T. Hoole, Miss K. Antonipillai, and Mr. M. Umasuthan were appointed as Probationary Assistant Lecturers. Miss A. K. Antonipillai, a Probationary Assistant Lecturer, left for Marquette University, U.S.A., to pursue an MSc in Functional Analysis in 1987.

In 1987, Dr. K. Sritharan, a Probationary Assistant Lecturer, returned from study leave after completing his PhD at Heriot-Watt University, U.K., and resumed his duties as a Lecturer on June 5, 1987. During this year, Mr. N. Nasir and Mr. N. Ramesh were appointed as Probationary Assistant Lecturers.

In 1988, Mr. N. Ramesh was admitted to the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, and subsequently to Imperial College, U.K., to pursue a PhD in Statistics. Mr. M. Velumylylum left for the University of South Carolina to pursue an MSc in Mathematics. Miss Z. T. Hoole received an assistantship at Claremont Graduate School, U.S.A., to pursue a MSc in Differential Equations. Additionally, Mr. M. Umasuthan left for the U.K. to pursue an MSc in Computer Science, also sponsored by the British Council through the University Grants Commission.

In 1987, the Department building suffered significant damage due to military operations in Jaffna.

The estimated cost of damage, including electrical fittings, amounted to Rs. 650,000. In 1988, Mr. N. Nasir, a Probationary Assistant Lecturer resigned from his post.

In 1989, Mr. S. Janarthan, Miss P. Paramanathan, and Mr. S. Ambikumar were appointed as Probationary Assistant Lecturers in the Department. Mr. S. Yogarajah was appointed as Senior Lecturer Grade 1 in Statistics on a contract basis.

In 1990, Mr. S. Yogarajah was appointed as Senior Lecturer Grade 1 in Statistics. Mr. R. Sekaran and Miss S. Sevalkodiyan were appointed as Probationary Assistant Lecturers in the Department. Mr. S. Velumylylum returned from the U.S.A. after completing his MSc at the University of South Carolina and resumed his duties in 1990. Dr. S. Srisatkunarajah resumed his duties after completing his PhD in Differential Equations at Heriot-Watt University, U.K., and was promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II. During this year, the University Grants Commission approved the establishment of the Department of Computer Science within the Faculty of Science. As a result, the following staff members were transferred to the newly established department: Mr. S. Kanaganathan, Mr. S. Mahesan and Mr. M. Umasuthan.

In 1991, Dr. M. Kathirkamanayagam and Mrs. R. Muhunthan joined the department as Senior Lecturer Grade II and Assistant Lecturer, respectively. During this year, Dr. R. R. Hoole, Dr. K. Sritharan, and Mrs. M. Yogendran left the department.

In 1992, Mr. S. Ambikumar and Mr. S. Janarthan joined McGill University and Concordia University, Canada, respectively, for their postgraduate studies. Mr. J. Sathiyadas retired from the university on July 30, 1992, after nearly eighteen years of service. During this year, Miss S. Sevalkodiyan and Dr. M. Kathirkamanayagam resigned from their positions.

In 1992, Mr. R. Sekaran, a Probationary Lecturer, went on study leave to Rhodes University, South Africa, to pursue a Master of Science degree. In 1993, Mr. S. Anton Ravirajan was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Mathematics, while Mr. J. Rajeswaran and Miss T. Katiravetpillai were appointed as Probationary Lecturers in Statistics.

In 1994, Mr. K. Thirulogasanthar and Mr. M. Muraleetharan were appointed as Probationary Lecturers in Mathematics, and Mr. P. Ainkaran was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Statistics. Dr. M. Skanharajah returned to the department after completing his Ph.D at University of Alberta, and appointed as a Senior Lecturer.

In 1995, during the October crisis, although the department building did not suffer serious damage, it lost almost all its equipment, including computers, calculators, printers, typewriters, and other office supplies worth more than a million rupees. This was a significant setback for the department, which was in the process of establishing a fully equipped statistical laboratory. In 1996, Mr. M. J. Tagore was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer and went to University of Waterloo, Canada to pursue postgraduate studies.

In 1997, Dr. S. Srisatkunarajah went on a one-year sabbatical leave to Heriot-Watt University, U.K., as a Commonwealth Fellow.

In 1998, Mrs. T. Visakulan resigned from her position. Dr. S. Srisatkunarajah resumed duties after a one-year Commonwealth Fellowship, where he served as a research fellow at the University of Bristol and Heriot-Watt University.

In 1999, Miss M. Nalini and Miss P. Vigneswari were appointed as Probationary Lecturers in Statistics, and Miss T. Silogini was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Mathematics.

In 2002, Mr. S. Arivalzahan was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Statistics after obtaining his Master's degree from the National University of Singapore. Mr. A. Laheetharan was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Statistics, and Mr. K. Kannan was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Mathematics. Prof. V. Tharmaratnam retired from his position as Professor of Mathematics. However, he was reappointed on a contract basis due to the department's need for his services.

In 2004, Mr. K. Kannan went to the N. Ramanujan Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics at the University of Madras, India, to pursue an MSc in Mathematics. Mr. S. Arivalzahan went to Monash University, Australia, to pursue his PhD studies in Statistics. Meanwhile, the faculty revised its

curriculum in 2004, with the key change being a switch from a unit system to a Grade Point Average (GPA) system. In response, the department also revised the structure and syllabus of the courses offered.

Dr. S. Srisatkunarajah was appointed as the Head of the Department in 2005. Dr. R. Vigneswaran from the Eastern University joined the department as a Senior Lecturer in Mathematics.

In 2006, Mr. S. Yogarajah retired after serving as a Senior Lecturer in Statistics. Mr. N. Ramaruban was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Mathematics. Later that year, due to unrest in the Jaffna peninsula, the university was closed indefinitely. Dr. S. Srisatkunarajah left the country on sabbatical leave, and Dr. R. Vigneswaran was appointed as the Head of the Department.

The situation returned to normal in early 2007, and university activities resumed. Mrs. N. Satkunanathan rejoined the department after completing her MSc at the University of Newfoundland, Canada, and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Statistics. Mr. B. Keethesan and Mr. N. Varathan were appointed as Probationary Lecturers in Mathematics and Statistics, respectively. Mr. S. Yogarajah was reappointed as a Senior Lecturer in Statistics on a contract basis after his retirement.

In 2008, Mr. R. Prasanthan was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Mathematics. Mr. N. Varathan, a Probationary Lecturer pursuing an MSc in Statistics at the Postgraduate Institute of Science, won the PGIS prize for best performance. Dr. S. Arivalzahan, a Lecturer in Statistics, returned from Australia after obtaining his PhD in Statistics from Monash University and was promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II. Dr. S. Srisatkunarajah also returned to the department after his sabbatical leave. During this period, the department's laboratory and lecture halls were renovated under the World Bank funded IRQUE project.

In 2009, Mr. T. Mathanaranjan and Mr. S. Arumairajan were appointed as Probationary Lecturers in Mathematics and Statistics, respectively. That same year, Dr. S. Srisatkunarajah became Head of the Department. Dr. R. Vigneswaran was promoted to Associate Professor on a merit basis. Mr. A.

Laheetharan resumed duties as a Senior Lecturer Grade II after obtaining his MPhil in Statistics from the University of Peradeniya. Additionally, Mr. N. Ramaruban, a Probationary Lecturer who left for postgraduate studies at the University of Cincinnati in the USA, received the Kieval Award at his university.

In 2010, Dr. S. Srisatkunarajah was promoted to Professor in Mathematics on merit basis. Mr. S. Selvarajan was also promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I. Mr. M. Khokulan was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Mathematics. The following year, Mr. B. Muraleetharan was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Mathematics. In 2011, Mr. N. Ramaruban received another fellowship, the Henry Laws Fellowship, during his postgraduate studies.

In 2012, Mr. N. Ramaruban received the Charles Phelps Taft Dissertation Award and the Maita Levine Summer Research Fellowship. Dr. K. Kannan, who rejoined the department after obtaining his PhD in Mathematics from the University of Southampton, UK, was promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II in Mathematics and also won an Excellence Research Award. Additionally, Mr. T. Mathanaranjan, pursuing his PhD in Mathematics, won the President's Award for his scientific publication. Mr. N. Varathan resumed his duties as Senior Lecturer Grade II after obtaining an MSc in Statistics from the University of Newfoundland, Canada. Mr. M. Annanthakrishna was also appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Mathematics in 2012.

In 2013, Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah was unanimously elected as the Dean of the Faculty of Science, and Prof. R. Vigneswaran became the Head of the Department. Mrs. N. Satkunanathan was promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I in Statistics. That year, Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah won the President's Research Award, Mr. T. Mathanaranjan received the National Research Council Merit Award and the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship, and Dr. K. Kannan won a Best Research Paper Award.

In 2014, Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah won the President's Research Award for the second consecutive year. Mr. T. Mathanaranjan received the Association of Scientists Award, and Dr. K. Kannan won the Best Scientific Researcher Award. Dr. N. Ramaruban, upon completing his PhD in Mathematics, returned to the department and was promoted to Senior Lecturer

Grade II. Dr. S. Arivalzahan was also promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I in Statistics that year. In the following year, Dr. M. R. H. Hoole retired from the department, and Mr. A. Laheetharan was promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I in Statistics. Dr. K. Kannan received the Best Academic Researcher and Best Scientific Researcher Awards.

In 2016, Mr. M. Khokulan obtained his MPhil from the University of Jaffna, Dr. T. Mathanaranjan and Dr. S. Arumairajan received their PhDs from the University of Peradeniya, and Dr. R. Prasanthan completed his PhD at Southern Illinois University, USA. All four were promoted to Senior Lecturers Grade II upon resuming their duties. Dr. R. Prasanthan also received the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award from the university during his final year of PhD studies. Mr. S. Selvarajan became Head of the Department after Prof. R. Vigneswaran was elected as the Dean of the Faculty in 2016.

In 2017, Prof. R. Vigneswaran was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the University. Mr. R. Tharsan was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Statistics. Mr. B. Muraleetharan received the National Research Council Merit Award, Dr. K. Kannan received the Excellence Research Award, and Mr. S. Selvarajan received the University Long Service Award. Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah was appointed as the Acting Dean of the newly formed Faculty of Technology. The department revised its syllabus in line with the new structure, introducing an extended degree program in Financial Mathematics and Applied Statistics, leading to a BSc in Applied Science degree.

In the following year, Mr. B. Muraleetharan and Mr. M. Annanthakrishna received their MPhil degrees from the University of Jaffna and the University of Colombo, respectively. Dr. B. Keethesan obtained his PhD from the Ramanujan Institute of Mathematics, India. All three were promoted to Senior Lecturers Grade II in Mathematics. Dr. K. Kannan was promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I in Mathematics, and Dr. N. Varathan was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Statistics. Ms. S. Jeevana and Ms. V. Anurithika were appointed as Probationary Lecturers in Statistics.

In 2019, Dr. S. Arivalzahan was appointed as the

Head of the Department, and Dr. R. Prasanthan was promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I in Mathematics. Mr. N. Arunmaran was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Mathematics. In the following year, Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna. Dr. T. Mathanaranjan was promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I in Mathematics, and Dr. S. Mayuran was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer in Mathematics. In 2022, Prof. R. Vigneswaran was promoted to Professor in Mathematics and Mrs. N. Satkunanathan took over as Head of the Department. In the same year, Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the University for a second

consecutive term. Dr. M. Arunmaran obtained his PhD in Mathematics from the University of South Australia, and Dr. R. Tharshan obtained his PhD in Statistics from the University of Peradeniya. Dr. K. Kannan was promoted to Professor in Mathematics. It was unfortunate that Prof. R. Vigneswaran passed away on 10 February 2023, just months before his retirement.

In 2023, Dr. N. Varathan was appointed as the Head of the Department. The department is currently operating successfully under his leadership, with the support of the academic and non-academic staff.

Heads of the Department (1974 - Present)



Prof. P. Kanagasabapathy
1974 - 1977



Prof. V. Tharmaratnam
1978 - 1983, 1991 - 1994



Mr. P. Makinan
1983 - 2005



Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah
2005 - 2006, 2009 - 2013



Prof. R. Vigneswaran
2006 - 2009, 2013 - 2016



Mr. S. Selvarajan
2016 - 2019



Dr. S. Arivalzahan
2019 - 2022



Mrs. N. Satkunanathan
2022 - 2023



Dr. N. Varathan
2023 to date

Staff Profile – Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Academic Staff



Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
Dip in Ed. (OUSL)
PhD (Heriot-Watt, UK)
Professor



Dr. R. Prasanthan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (Southern Illinois, USA)
PhD (Southern Illinois, USA)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. K. Kannan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (Madras)
PhD (Southampton, UK)
Professor



Dr. T. Mathanaranjan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Mr. S. Selvarajan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PG Dip. (Peradeniya)
MPhil (SJP)
Senior Lecturer



Dr. S. Arumairajan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Mrs. N. Satkunanathan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (Peradeniya)
MSc (Memorial, Canada)
Senior Lecturer



Dr. N. Ramaruban

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Cincinnati, USA)
Senior Lecturer



Dr. S. Arivalzahan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (NUS, Singapore)
PhD (Monash, Australia)
Senior Lecturer



Mr. M. Khokulan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Jaffna)
Senior Lecturer



Mr. A. Laheetharan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Dr. B. Kethesan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (Madras, India)
PhD (Madras, India)
Senior Lecturer



Dr. N. Varathan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (Peradeniya)
MSc (Memorial, Canada)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Mr. B. Muraleetharan

BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Jaffna)
Senior Lecturer



Mr. M. Annanthakrishna
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Colombo)
Senior Lecturer



Dr. M. Arunmaran
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (UniSA, Australia)
Lecturer



Dr. R. Tharshan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (WSU, USA)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Dr. S. Mayuran
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Cincinnati, USA)
Lecturer



Mrs. J. Duwarahan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
Lecturer



Support Staff



Mr. T. Nanthakopi
Technical officer



Mr. R. Kartheepan
Technical Officer



Mrs. N. Kantharuban
Management Assistant



Mr. A. Aravinthan
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. J. Kajenthiran
Health Service Labour

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

University of Jaffna

Vision

To be a leading centre in teaching, learning, research and scholarship in Physics

Foundation and Establishment

The Department of Physics began operations in April 1975 within the Physics Laboratory of the undergraduate section of Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai, which had been acquired by the Government to establish the Faculty of Science of the University of Jaffna. Dr. K. Kunaratnam from the University of Colombo was appointed as the first Professor and Head of the Department. The initial academic and non-academic staff comprised Dr. Kunaratnam, two newly recruited Probationary Assistant Lecturers, Miss W. M.F. Vincent and Mr. K. Kandasamy, two Temporary Demonstrators, a Lab Technician transferred from the Colombo Campus, and a Lab Attendant absorbed from the staff of Jaffna College when the university took it over. Dr. R. Kumaravadivel, from the Department of Physics at the University of Peradeniya, also assisted the department in conducting lectures. In April 1980, he joined the Department of Physics at the University of Jaffna.

The first batch of approximately 20 students was admitted in September 1975. Classes were conducted at Vaddukoddai until March 1978. Due to various challenges, including an acute shortage of fresh water, the university decided to relocate future development to Thirunelveli, where the administrative offices were situated. Although funds were allocated for a Physics Block at Thirunelveli in early 1977, construction only began later that year. The Department moved from Vaddukoddai to Thirunelveli in July 1978 when the Faculty of Science was relocated. At Thirunelveli, the Department operated out of temporary classrooms, two of which were converted into a makeshift laboratory. All practical classes for students across the three years of study were conducted in this single temporary laboratory.

The Department moved into the newly completed Physics Block in September 1980. This building was temporarily shared with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Department of Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

Chemistry for two years. The Physics Block, with a total floor area of about 2,600 square metres, includes one lecture hall, three lecture rooms, a mechanical workshop (which became functional in 1982), and eight laboratories, including a Research Laboratory and separate laboratories for Optics and Electronics.

Evolution and Growth

The first decade of the Department's history was marked by significant development and progress, despite numerous challenges. However, additional difficulties arose in 1987, including an oil embargo that severely restricted transportation, as well as disruptions to communication and other essential services. Frequent interruptions due to curfews and military operations by the Sri Lankan Army and Air Force posed further obstacles.

The Department sustained extensive damage during the two-and-a-half months of military operations in the Jaffna peninsula by the Indian Peace Keeping Forces (IPKF) from July 1987. Laboratories, workshops, staff rooms, and storerooms were forcibly opened, and teaching and office equipment were damaged. Additionally, academic property, including lecture notes and research materials, was destroyed during this period. After 1989, the political and military situation in Jaffna was not conducive to academic development. The department focused on maintaining its undergraduate teaching programmes amidst frequent curfews, military operations, and aerial bombings, as well as blockades of essential goods. These challenges also led to many Probationary Assistant Lecturers not returning to Jaffna after completing their postgraduate studies abroad, placing an additional burden on the few staff who remained.

The latter part of 1995 was particularly disastrous for the Department, as it lost laboratory and office equipment and furniture worth over thirty-five million rupees during displacement. This loss included a large number of electronic devices and heavy

machinery such as lathes and drilling machines in the workshop. Consequently, the Department's laboratory programmes and research activities, including students' projects, were severely curtailed. It took several years to replace this equipment through allocated funds.

Degree Programmes

The Department offers courses leading to a three-year General Degree, a four-year Honours Degree in Physics (2+2), and a four-year Honours Degree in Applied Science (3+1). We have been able to maintain standards that are acceptable internationally by having external examiners from leading universities in the UK. The Bachelor of Science (BSc) Honours Degree programme was introduced in 1979, with the first batch of six Physics Honours students completing their studies in December 1980. Until 2009, General Degree lectures were conducted bilingually (in Tamil and English simultaneously), while Honours Degree lectures have been delivered exclusively in English since the programme's inception in 1979.

Staff Profile and Teaching

The lectures have been conducted by highly qualified academic staff who are trained abroad. For the Honours courses, examination questions are moderated, and answer scripts undergo a second round of marking by external examiners from the UK. Notably, Prof. W. Fuller from the University of Keele served as the Department's External Examiner from 1980 to 1986. From 1987 to 1999, this role was undertaken by Drs. D. A. Greenwood, M. G. Priestley, and J. C. Gill from the University of Bristol, England. Since 1999, Dr. Vincent Smith has held the position of External Examiner. The number of students enrolling in Physics courses annually has risen significantly, from approximately 20 in 1975 to around 300 today.

Graduates and Achievements

The Department has produced thousands of BSc Degree graduates and several hundred BSc Honours Degree graduates, consistently upholding a standard that is internationally recognised. Many of our Honours Physics graduates are thriving both in Sri Lanka and abroad. Over seventy-five of them have earned PhDs from prestigious foreign universities and are now employed in various institutions across

the UK, USA, Canada, and Australia. Some have also joined the permanent academic staff at the University of Jaffna, University of Colombo, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Eastern University of Sri Lanka, and South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. Additionally, many graduates are currently pursuing higher studies at universities in the USA, Canada, Germany, and Norway. The positive feedback we receive from their postgraduate supervisors is a testament to the robust foundational training provided by the Department. Furthermore, several of our Honours degree graduates have secured positions within the Sri Lanka Scientific Service as Physicists in various hospitals and scientific institutions. Many others are successfully employed as Customs Officers, Surveyors, Administrative Officers, Principals, and Teachers.

Record high number of students got US/Canadian scholarships in 2022-2023

In 2022-2023, nine students got full-scholarships for MS/PhD studies in the USA and Canada. This is a record in the past 50 years' history of the Department of Physics. Department appreciates the help and guidance provided by Professor K. Vignarooban to these scholarship recipients and is hopeful in sending more and more students to the US/Canada in the coming years.

Masters degree programmes launched by the Department

In 2003, the Department launched a Master of Science degree programme in Physics of Materials, funded by the Asian Development Bank, following the syllabus approval from the University Grants Commission (UGC). The Department appreciates Professor K. Kandasamy for coordinating the curriculum development. In collaboration with Western Norway University of Applied Sciences and with support from select academics within the Faculty of Engineering, the Department of Physics developed two Master's degree programs: a one-year Master's in Clean Energy Technologies and a two-year Master of Science in Clean Energy Technologies, both of which received UGC approval. The Department acknowledges the significant contributions of Professor P. Ravirajan and his collaborator, Professor V. Dhayalan (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences), in initiating these programmes under the 'Higher Education and Research Collaboration

on Nanomaterials for Clean Energy Technologies (HRNCET)' project <https://project.jfn.ac.lk/hrncet/index.php/academics/>. Their efforts, supported by the staff of the Departments of Physics and Chemistry, as well as the Faculty of Engineering, were instrumental in the successful development and UGC approval of these curricula.

Research and Development

Since 2000, the academic staff of the Department have periodically secured research grants worth several hundred million Sri Lankan rupees from national and international funding agencies, enabling the purchase of highly sophisticated research equipment for material research especially for solar cells and energy storage devices. As such, the Department established well-equipped laboratories in the country. Glad to note that these instrumentation facilities are being used by researchers from other Sri Lankan universities for fabricating and characterising their solar cells and energy storage devices.

The Department has been pursuing research work by collaborating with Imperial College London, Edinburgh University, UK, Arizona State University, USA, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan, University of Malaya, University Illinois at Chicago, USA, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, University of Bergen, Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic.

According to Thomson Reuters' ISI Web of Science, the University has produced over 1,000 Scopus-indexed journal papers, collectively garnering approximately 15,000 citations, which averages to about 15 citations per paper. The Department of Physics takes pride in leading the University in this regard, having published the highest number of highly cited indexed journal papers. Remarkably, out of the 20 most-cited papers authored by University of Jaffna staff, half originated from the Department of Physics. Moreover, based on data from Thomson Reuters' ISI

Web of Science (Essential Science Indicators), Sri Lanka contributed over 20 of the world's most-cited papers in the last decade, with two of these papers authored by staff from the Department of Physics, University of Jaffna.

The department is proud to note that the top six high impact papers co-authored by the staff of the University of Jaffna are all published by the staff of the Department of Physics: Dr. K. Ahilan, Mr. K. Prashanthan, Dr. P. A. Amalraj and Prof. P. Ravirajan published papers in high impact journals (see the list below). These are the top 6 high impact papers published by the staff of the University of Jaffna.

Papers published in high Impact Factor Journals

| No. | Publications co-authored by our staff | Current impact factor |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Dr. K. Ahilan , Superconductivity on the border of itinerant-electron ferromagnetism in UGe_2 . Nature volume 406, pages 587–592 (2000) | 54.4 |
| 2. | Mr. K. Prashanthan , Stabilization of Inorganic Perovskite Solar Cells with a 2D Dion–Jacobson Passivating Layer, Advanced Materials, 2023, 35, 2304150. | 27.4 |
| 3. | Mr. K. Prashanthan , Rubidium Iodide Reduces Recombination Losses in Methylammonium-Free Tin-Lead Perovskite Solar Cells, Advanced Energy Materials, 2023, 13, 2204339. | 24.4 |
| 4. | Dr. P. A. Amalraj , “Lead Halide Residue as a Source of Light Induced Reversible Defects in Hybrid Perovskite Layers and Solar Cells” in ACS Energy Lett. 2019, 4, 3011–3017. | 20.8 |
| 5. | Dr. P. A. Amalraj , Below the Urbach Edge: Solar Cell Loss Analysis Based on Full External Quantum Efficiency Spectra. ACS Energy Letters, 2023, 8(7), 3221–3227. | 20.8 |

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| 6. | <p>Prof. P. Ravirajan, The effect of polymer optoelectronic properties on the performance of multilayer hybrid polymer/TiO₂ solar cell, <i>Advanced Functional Materials</i>, 15 (2005) 609 - 618.</p> | 18.5 |
|----|--|-------------|

Nanoscience Research Laboratory

This laboratory was established with financial assistance from the National Research Council (NRC), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Research. It is fully equipped with essential fabrication facilities, including a thermal evaporator, programmable spin coaters, and a fume hood designed for the development of nanostructured and thin film solar cells. Additionally, the laboratory houses advanced characterisation equipment such as an Atomic Force Microscope (AFM), UV-VIS spectroscopy, and a pulsed laser for analysis of any optoelectronic devices. The current value of these equipments at this laboratory exceeds LKR 80 million. The laboratory is actively utilised not only by our students but also by students from other universities across the country.



Clean Energy Research Laboratory

The Clean Energy Research Laboratory (CERL), a state-of-the-art facility with a 1,200-square-foot floor area, has been established adjacent to the Nanoscience Research Laboratory on the first floor of the Department of Physics. This laboratory was developed under the Capacity Building and Establishment of a Research Consortium in Nanomaterials for Clean Energy Technologies (CBERC) project, with financial support from the Ministry of Higher Education, Sri Lanka, and the Royal Norwegian Embassy. The CERL was officially inaugurated on May 11, 2018, by Hon. Ambassador Thorbjørn Gaustadsæter and Rector Berit Rokne from the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences.

The CERL is equipped with advanced fabrication and characterization facilities, dedicated rooms for research assistants, and a 300-square-foot seminar hall for regular group meetings and online discussions with collaborators from Norway, India, and the UK. The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Colombo funded the purchase of essential research equipment, including an X-ray diffractometer, a solar simulator with a power supply, a gas purification system for the glove box, and various safety facilities such as a fume hood, solvent storage cabinets, and workbenches. The current value of these equipments (<https://project.jfn.ac.lk/hrncet/index.php/instrument-facilities/>) exceeds LKR 100 million.

The establishment of the CERL within the Department of Physics has become a cornerstone for advanced research in clean energy technologies in the country. It has already contributed significantly to the production of high-quality research, conference papers, and journal publications.



Laboratory for Energy Conversion and Storage

This laboratory was developed from the scratch with the dedicated efforts of Professor Vignaroban during the past 10 years (2014 - 2024) of his tenure by obtaining several research grants from various sources including the World Bank, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS, Italy), National Research Council (NRC), National Science Foundation (NSF) and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF). This newly developed laboratory is currently well-equipped with almost all the essential instrumentation facilities for research on materials and devices for energy storage such as Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS), Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC), Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), high-temperature furnace, fume hood, ultrasonicator, vacuum oven, dry cabinet and so on.



Materials Science Research Laboratory

Materials Science Laboratory has been developed by Dr. (Ms.) U. Sutharsini with fundamental apparatus for ceramic research, including a pressing machine with vacuum press capacity. For advanced material characterizations, the lab offers a digital pH meter, densitometer, autoclave, high-end workstation, source measure unit, parameter analyser, a custom-made semiconductor probe station, and a water bath. These facilities were established with the generous support of NSF and University of Jaffna research grants.

National and International Research Grants

| Year and period | Short Title of the Project | Investigators/ Coordinators | Funding Agency | Amount LKR (mn) |
|-----------------|--|--|----------------|--------------------|
| 2000 - 2006, | Optoelectronic properties of defects in Diamond until 2004 and then Optoelectronic properties of hybrid Metal oxide / Polymer Nanocomposite | Dr. L. Jeyanathan(PI) Dr. S. Sivaraya Dr. P. Ravirajan | NRC | 11.0 |
| 2004-2006 | Hot Electron Spectroscopic Studies of indirect tunnel barriers | Dr. S. Sivaraya | TWAS | 0.8 |
| 2006 -2008 | Low-cost solar cells based on Nanocrystalline titanium dioxide and vegetable dyes | Prof. P. Ravirajan (PI) | IFS | 2.0 |
| 2006 - 2009 | Fabrication and characterization of organic / metal oxides Nanostructured PV devices | Prof. P. Ravirajan (PI) | NRC | 8.4 |
| 2007-2010 | Characterization of Nanostructured polymer / Fullerene solar cells | Prof. P. Ravirajan (PI) | NSF | 1.9 |
| 2011-2014 | Improving the performance of Hybrid TiO ₂ / Polymer solar cell using interface modifiers | Prof. P. Ravirajan (PI) | NRC | 8.0 |
| 2015-2019 | Synthesis and characterization of gel-polymer electrolytes for rechargeable sodium-ion batteries | Prof. P. Ravirajan (PI) Dr. K. Vignarooban Mr. S. Senthuran | NRC | 5.0 |
| 2017-2022 | Thin film Solar Cells towards manufacturing of Prototype Solar Panels | Prof. L. Dissanayake (NIFS) Prof. P. Ravirajan Prof. S. de Silva (UoK) Dr. B. Dissanayake (UoP) | MoRST | 68.0* |
| 2017-2021 | 'Higher Education and Research collaboration on Nanomaterials for Clean Energy Technologies' – HRNCET 1.0 | Prof. Dhayalan Velauthapillai* Prof. P. Ravirajan | | 97.0 [#] |
| 2022-2027 | 'Higher Education and Research collaboration on Nanomaterials for Clean Energy Technologies' – HRNCET 2.0 | Prof. Dhayalan Velauthapillai* Prof. P. Ravirajan | NDHES | 200.0 [#] |
| 2018 -2022 | 'Capacity Building and Establishment of a Research Consortium in Nanomaterials for Clean Energy Technologies' - CBERC | Prof. Dhayalan Velauthapillai* Prof. P. Ravirajan | RNE | 129.0 |

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|-----------|---|---|------------|------|
| 2018-2020 | Novel electrolytes based on polymer-ceramic nano-composites for sodium-ion secondary batteries | Prof. K. Vignarooban (PI) | TWAS | 1.7 |
| 2018-2022 | Novel materials for secondary sodium-ion batteries and proton exchange membrane fuel cells | Prof. K. Vignarooban (PI) Mr. S. Senthuran | NSF-PSF | 6.1 |
| 2019-2023 | Development of novel electrolyte and electrode materials for secondary sodium-ion and magnesium-ion batteries | Prof. K. Vignarooban (PI) Prof. K. Velauthamurthy Prof. G. Sashikesh Dr. H.W.M.A.C. Wijayasinghe Mr. S. Senthuran | WB - AHEAD | 40.0 |
| 2017-2019 | Fundamental Studies on Y-TZP ceramics and mechanisms for enhancing the hydrothermal ageing resistance | Dr. (Ms.) U. Sutharsini | NSF | 1.5 |
| 2020-2021 | Development of an Electronic Detection system for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 | Dr. M. Thanishaichelvan Prof. N. Surendran Prof. P. Ravirajan Dr. T. Kumanan Dr. R. Valluvan Dr. (Ms.) U. Sutharsini | NSF | 1.5 |

*#Bulk of the funds for collaborative research work of the MPhil/PhD students at the *Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, University of Bergen and University of Oslo, <https://project.jfn.ac.lk/hrncet/index.php/researchers/>.

- TWAS – The World Academy of Sciences, Italy
 NRC – National Research Council, Sri Lanka
 IFS – International Foundation for Science, Sweden
 NSF – National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka
 PSF – Pakistan Science Foundation
 WB – The World Bank (AHEAD Project)
 NDHES – Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
 RNE – Royal Norwegian Embassy

Postgraduate Research Opportunities

Since 2010, opportunities for postgraduate research, particularly in Material Physics, have significantly improved. This peaceful environment has been conducive to research activities, allowing all academics to stay in close contact with their supervisors

and fellow researchers in their respective fields, resulting in numerous publications in high-impact journals. The extent of this productivity is evident from the number of papers published in high-impact indexed journals. Academics from the department have published more than 200 full papers, including over 150 in high-impact factor journals. These publications have been the result of collaborations with prestigious research institutions and universities around the world, such as the University of Bristol, Keele University, Arizona State University, Chalmers University of Technology, University of Cincinnati, University of Peradeniya, the University of Cape Town, the University of Colombo, the University of Malaya, CSIRO, Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Canterbury, Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin, Queen's University Belfast, and Imperial College London.

Ongoing Research Collaborations & MoU signed

| Name of Staff | Name of Collaborator(s) | Collaborating Institution |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Prof. P. Ravirajan | Prof. Dhayalan Veluathappillai | Western Norway Uni. of Applied Sciences, Norway |
| | Prof. Neil Robertson | Edinburgh University, UK |
| | Prof. Jenny Nelson | Imperial College London |
| | Prof. N. Muthukumaraswmy | Coimbatore Institute of Technology, India |
| | Prof. M.A.K.L. Dissanayake | National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy |
| Prof. K. Vignarooban | Prof. A.M. Kannan | Arizona State University, USA |
| | Prof. Aleksandar Matic | Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden |
| | Prof. Naseem Iqbal | National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan |
| | Prof. M.A.K.L. Dissanayake | National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy |
| Dr. T. Pathmathas | Prof. Marco Esposito | International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Italy |
| Dr. U. Sutharsini | Prof. Ir. Dr. Ramesh Singh | Universiti Malaya, Malaysia |
| | Dr. Ng Chui Kim | Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology, Malaysia |
| Dr. P. A. Amalraj | Prof. Jakub Holovsky | Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic |

| Collaborating Institution | Name of Collaborator | From | To | No. of joint papers |
|---|--------------------------------|--------|---------|---------------------|
| Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway | Prof. Dhayalan Veluathappillai | 2017 - | to date | 34 |
| University of Bergen, Norway | Professor Øyvind Frette | 2022 - | to date | 01 |
| Sivananthan Laboratories, US | Prof. Sivananthan | | | 02 |
| Coimbatore Institute of Technology, India | Prof. N. Muthukumaraswmy | 2023 - | to date | 02 |

We are proud to record that our department has published the largest number of papers in high-impact indexed journals among all departments at the university, with our work cited up to 10,000 times. Almost all the senior staff members have received Presidential Awards for their research publications. Additionally, in 2021, a patent titled “Biosensor Device and Methods,” resulting from a collaborative effort between Dr. M. Thanishaichelvan with the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, was filed in the US Patent Directory.

| Name of the Recipient | Year (s) of Award |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Prof. Kandasamy | 2000, 2001 & 2003 |
| Prof. P. Ravirajan | 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2017 |
| Prof. K. Vignarooban | 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017 |
| Dr. A. Thevakaran | 2016 |
| Dr. (Ms.) U. Sutharshini | 2016 |
| Dr. M. Thanishaichelvan | 2015 |
| Mr. K. Prashanthan | 2017 |

Presidential awards for Research Publications

International Patent

| Patent Title | Name of Applicant(s) | Patent No. | Award Year | Agency / Country | Status |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Biosensor Device and Methods | Dr. M. Thanishaichelvan | (US20210255184A1) | 2022 | United States | Published and Sold |
| Sensor Device and Methods | Dr. M. Thanishaichelvan | (US20190346401A1) | 2022 | United States | Published and Sold |

Best PhD Thesis Award

| Name of the Recipient | Award Name, University and Year |
|-----------------------|---|
| Dr. K. Sutharsan | Mark Anderson outstanding doctoral thesis award in Physics, Arizona State University, USA, 2007 |
| Dr. T. Pathmathas | Joseph Arenow Award for outstanding, original postgraduate research in Science, University of cape Town, South Africa, 2014 |

The research capabilities of the academic staff of the Department of Physics have been recognised both nationally and internationally. Several key achievements underscore the international standing of our senior staff as listed below.

- The International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Italy, appointed four of our faculty members, Prof. K. Kunaratnam, Prof. R. Kumaravadivel, Prof. K. Kandasamy, and Dr. T. Pathmathas, as Associates of the Centre at various times.
- Professor P. Ravirajan won the fellowships from Commonwealth Commission, UK and the Royal Society London for collaborative research work

at the Imperial College London and Edinburgh University, UK.

- Professor K. Vignarooban received the Fulbright Fellowship in 2020 for the first time among the academic staff of the Faculty of Science for research training at the Arizona State University, USA.
- Professor K. Vignarooban received the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) short-term fellowship in 2017 for the first time among the academic staff of the University of Jaffna for research training at the Helmholtz Institute Ulm, Germany.

Sabbatical positions held by the staff of the Department

| Name of staff | Title of the Sabbatical position | Awarding Agency | Tenable at | Periods |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| Prof. K. Kunaratnam | Study Visitor | Ohio State University | Ohio State University, USA | 1 year (1997) |
| Prof. R. Kumaravadivel | Visiting Professor | Commonwealth Commission | Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge | 1 year (1991) |
| Prof. K. Kandasamy | Researcher | Academic Council of the Queens University of Belfast | Queen's University, Belfast | 1 Year (1987) |
| | Researcher | Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) | Japan | 1 Year (1997) |
| Prof. K. Vignarooban | Assistant Research Scientist | Honeywell Aerospace | Arizona State University, USA | 1 year (2023 - 2024) |

Fellowship / Associateship / Scholarship

| Name of staff | Fellowship / Associateship / Scholarship | Awarding Agency | Tenable at | Periods |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|------------|---------------------|
| Prof. R. Kumaravadivel | Visiting Scientist Fellowship | ICTP | ICTP | 1983-1984 1 year |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Prof. K. Kandasamy | PhD Scholarship | University of Keele | University of Keele, England | 1977-1980 |
| | Guest Fellowship | Queens University of Belfast | Queens University of Belfast, U.K. | 2 months 1990 |
| | Guest Fellowship | Academy of Sciences, Czechoslovakia | Czechoslovakia | 2 months 1990 |
| Prof. P. Ravirajan | Commonwealth Scholarship (Open) | Commonwealth Commission, UK | Imperial College London | Oct. 2001 - Sept. 2004 |
| | Commonwealth fellowship | Commonwealth Commission, UK | Imperial College London & Edinburgh University, UK | 3 months 2014 |
| | Royal Society Visiting Fellowship | Royal Society London | Imperial College London & Edinburgh University, UK | 3 months 2008 |
| | Overseas Special Training Fellowship | NSF | University Illinois at Chicago, USA | 2 months 2012 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|
| Prof. K. Vignarooban | Research stays for university academics and scientists | Fellowship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany | Helmholtz Institute Ulm, Germany | 2 months 2017 |
| | Overseas Special Training Fellowship | National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka | Arizona State University, USA | 2 months 2016 |
| | Post-Doctoral Research Associateship | Department of Energy, USA | Arizona State University, USA | 2 Years 2012-2014 |
| | University Graduate Scholarship (UGS) | Ohio State Government, USA | University of Cincinnati, USA | 5 Years 2007-2012 |
| | International Programme in the Physical Sciences (IPPS) Fellowship | IPPS Programme, Uppsala University, Sweden | Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden | 1 Year 2005-2006 |
| Dr. T. Pathmathas | PhD Studentship | Centre for Minerals Research, University of Cape Town | University of Cape Town, South Africa | 4 Years 2011-2014 |
| | ICTP Studentship | ICTP/UNESCO | ICTP | 1 Year 2003-2004 |
| | ICTP Fellowship | ICTP/UNESCO | ICTP | 2 months 2005 |
| | ICTP Senior Associateship | ICTP/UNESCO | ICTP | 6 Years 2023-2028 |
| Dr. A. Thevakaran | HETC scholarship | World Bank | CISIR, Australia | One year |
| Dr. (Ms.) S.Ubenthiran | Bright Sparks International Students Scholarship | University of Malaya | Universiti Malaya | 3 years 2012-2015 |
| Dr. M. Thanishaichelvan | UNESCO-TWAS Post-doctoral fellowship | The World Academy of Science (TWAS) | Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India | 2022 |
| | Plant and Food Research Scholarship | The Royal Society of New Zealand | Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand | 3 years 2016-2019 |
| | Marsden Scholarship | The Royal Society of New Zealand | Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand | 2015 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| Mr. S. Senthuran | Postgraduate scholarship | National Science Foundation | | 2018-2020 |
| | DEL Postgraduate Scholarship | Queen's University Belfast, U.K | Queen's University Belfast, U.K | 2008-2009 |
| Dr. P. A. Amalraj | Research Fellowship | Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and Czech National Foundation. | Center for Advanced Photovoltaics, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic. | 2 months 2023 |
| | Research Fellowship | Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. | Center for Advanced Photovoltaics, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic. | 2 months 2022 |
| | Postdoctoral Research Fellowship | Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. | Center for Advanced Photovoltaics, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic. | 2017-2021 |
| | UC Doctoral Scholarship | University of Canterbury, New Zealand | University of Canterbury, New Zealand | 2013-2016 |
| Mr. K. Prashanthan | Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin PhD Scholarship | Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin | Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin & Humboldt Universität zu Berlin | Oct. 2022 - Mar. 2024 |
| | Research Grants - Doctoral Programmes in Germany, 2018/19 | Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) - German Academic Exchange Service | Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin & Humboldt Universität zu Berlin | Jun. 2018 - Sep. 2022 |

National and International Honours

Prof. Kunaratnam was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, London, as well as a Fellow and Chartered Physicist of the Institute of Physics, London—two prestigious professional bodies dedicated to the advancement and promotion of Astronomy, Geophysics, and Physics. The research excellence of our staff has also been recognized nationally. Prof. K. Kunaratnam and Prof. P. Ravirajan were appointed as members of the Academic Council of the Institute of Fundamental Studies in 1987 and 2020, respectively. Additionally, Prof. K. Kandasamy and Prof. P. Ravirajan were appointed as members of the National Research Council of Sri Lanka by His/her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka in 1999 and 2019, respectively. Prof. R. Kumaravadivel has been serving as a member of the University Grant Commission (UGC) for five years from April 2015.

National Award

| Name of the Awardee | Name of the national award | Awarding institution | Year of Award |
|---------------------|--|----------------------|---------------|
| Prof. P. Ravirajan | CVCD Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding Young Researcher in Physical Sciences | CVCD | 2006 |
| | Young Scientist Award (NSF/SCOPUS) | NSF | 2008 |
| | SUSRED (Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degrees) Award - three awards | NSF | 2023 |

International Award

| Name of the Awardee | Name of the international award | Awarding institution | Year of Award |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Mr. K. Prashanthan | Young Researcher Award | Centre for Ionics, University of Malaya | 2015 |

Professional Recognition

| Name of the Staff | Honour | Awarding Agency | Year |
|--------------------|--------|--|------|
| Prof. Kunaratnam | Fellow | Royal Astronomical Society, London | 1998 |
| | Fellow | Institute of Physics, London | 1999 |
| Prof. P. Ravirajan | Fellow | National Academy of Sciences Sri Lanka | 2023 |

Member of the National Commission/Council/Institute

| Name of the staff | Members of National bodies/Committee | From - To | No. of Years |
|------------------------|--|--|--------------|
| Prof. K. Kunaratnam | Research Council of National Institute of Fundamental Studies | 1984 - 1987 | 3 |
| Prof. R. Kumaravadivel | University Grants Commission | 2015 - 2020 | 5 |
| Prof. K. Kandasamy | National Research Council | 1999 - 2008 | 9 |
| Prof. P. Ravirajan | National Research Council | Feb. 2020 - Feb. 2022 Feb. 2023 - to date | 3 |
| | Research Council of National Institute of Fundamental Studies | June 2020 - to date | 4 |
| | Working Committee of the National Science Foundation on Basic Sciences | June 2016 – June 2019. | 3 |
| | Taskforce on the promotion of STEM education, Ministry of Education | Since February 2022 | 2 |
| | Standing Committee on General Committee of the National Education Commission (NEC) | January 2021 - January 2024 | 3 |

Contribution of the staff to University Administration

Besides conducting the academic and research activities in the department, the staff has contributed immensely to the administrative and other outreach activities of the University. Prof. K. Kunaratnam served as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Vice Chancellor of the University. Prof. R. Kumaravadivel served as Dean of the Faculty of Science for over four terms. He was also a Council nominee for the post of Vice Chancellor three times and acting Vice Chancellor for over a year. Prof. K. Kandasamy served as Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (September 2005 – September 2008), Science (July 2010 - July 2013) and Technology (April 2016 – September 2016). Currently, Professor Ravirajan has been serving as the Dean of the Faculty of Science since June 2020.

Contributions to National Education and Outreach Activities

The Department played a pivotal role in supporting the National Institute of Education and the Northern Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

Department of Education by conducting various workshops for GCE (AL) Physics teachers and students periodically. Prof. Kunaratnam made significant contributions to national education through his involvement in various committees. He served on the Committee for the Preparation of Syllabuses for Senior Secondary Programmes (Department of Education, Government of Sri Lanka, 1974/75), the External Degree Syllabus Committee (University of Sri Lanka, 1976/77), the National Committee to Review University Curricula (1977), and the GCE (A/L) Syllabus Review Committee (1989). Additionally, he was a member of the Council of the International Association for the Theory of Relativity (IATR), Sri Lanka National Unit (1979-1981). Prof. Kunaratnam also served as a co-examiner in Physics for the SLAAS Entrance Examination (1983) and as an External Examiner in Physics for examinations conducted by the Universities of Colombo and Peradeniya.

Professors Kumaravadivel, Kandasamy, and Ravirajan served on a panel to set questions for the

A/L Physics Examination. All senior academics have consistently served as Chief Examiners for A/L Physics Examinations and as External Examiners in Physics for examinations conducted by the Eastern University of Sri Lanka. Prof. Kumaravadivel also served as the coordinator for the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) degree programme at the University of Colombo, School of Computing for several years.

The department staff have regularly contributed as resource persons for training teachers and students to promote Physics education in the province. In collaboration with the Jaffna Science Association and the Provincial Department of Education, Northern Province, more than 3,000 GCE (A/L) students in the Science and Technology streams from 55 schools in the Jaffna district were educated on the significance of clean energy technologies through interactive discussions and hands-on experiments from 2017 to 2021 (<https://project.jfn.ac.lk/hrncet/index.php/outreachties/>). The trained students actively participated in subsequent activities related to the theme, including poster preparation, documentary filmmaking, and the invention of innovative formulations organized under the project.



Moreover, more than 500 school students from 17 educational zones across three districts in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka benefitted from Clean Energy Workshops organized in collaboration with the Eastern and South Eastern Universities, the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Training, Research and Innovation. These workshops featured innovation exhibits and poster demonstrations.

In collaboration with Professors Kirthi Tennakone and Adjith de Alwis from Georgia State University, USA, Annular Solar Eclipse Observation camps were established at the University of Jaffna's Thirunelveli and Kilinochchi premises, with financial support from the Ministry of Technology and Innovation and the Norwegian Embassy in Colombo. The program aimed to spark interest in science and mathematics, particularly astronomy, among students, highlighting the importance of rational thinking, the dangers of superstition, and fostering astronomical research in Sri Lanka.



Professor P. Ravirajan coordinated the International Conference on Advanced Materials for Clean Energy & Health Applications (AMCEHA 2019, <https://conf.jfn.ac.lk/amceha/>), jointly organized by the University of Jaffna (UoJ) and the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL) from 6-8 February 2019. The conference attracted over 400 participants, including experts, scientists, scholars, academics, students, and representatives from both local and international industries. Among the participants were 120 foreign delegates from countries such as Norway, India, Canada, Australia, the UK, Bangladesh, Sudan, Sweden, Finland, Egypt, China, Japan, and the USA. The conference received 180 research articles, of which 140 were selected and presented following a rigorous peer-review process. The event featured oral presentations, poster presentations, one-minute spotlight presentations of posters, and plenary talks by eminent scientists in the fields of nanomaterials for solar cells, health applications, and energy storage systems.



Future development plans

Our department is renowned for delivering high-quality physics education through distinguished academics trained abroad and boasts well-equipped laboratories specializing in material research, particularly in clean energy sources and storage. The department is on a trajectory of continuous growth and advancement, driven by a clear vision and strategic initiatives aimed at fulfilling its mission and achieving its goals. Key areas of focus include:

- **Enhancing Teaching and Learning:** Innovation in teaching methods and curriculum design is a top priority. The department is dedicated to creating dynamic, student-centered learning environments that better prepare graduates to meet future challenges. By integrating the latest educational technologies and methodologies, the department aims to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their careers and make meaningful contributions to society.
- **Expanding Research Capabilities:** The department is committed to securing additional funding to bolster its research efforts. This includes upgrading and modernizing laboratory facilities to support cutting-edge research and foster innovation across various research areas such as modelling, biophysics, and quantum optics.
- **Strengthening Partnerships:** Building stronger research collaborations with other academic institutions, industry, and community organizations is crucial to expanding research opportunities and enhancing public engagement. The department plans to establish new partnerships and reinforce existing ones, creating a robust network of collaborators that will facilitate interdisciplinary research and community-based projects.
- **Supporting Faculty and Students:** The department acknowledges the importance of investing in its faculty and students. Efforts will be made to provide more professional development opportunities for faculty, ensuring they remain at the forefront of their fields. Additionally, increasing support for student research and career development is a priority, with initiatives designed to foster a research-intensive environment and provide students with the resources and mentorship needed for success.

The department also wishes to express its deep appreciation to Emeritus Professors K. Kunaratnam, R. Kumaravadivel, and K. Kandasamy for their pioneering contributions to the development of the department, the faculty, and the university in various capacities from its inception.

Heads of the Department of Physics (1975 - present)



Prof. K. Kunaratnam
April 1975 -
October 1980

October 1981 -
February 1985



Dr. V. Ramachandran
October 1980 -
October 1981



Prof. R. Kumaravadivel
February 1985 -
February 1988

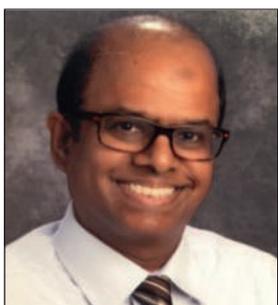
April 1994 -
November 1999



Prof. K. Kandasamy
March 1988 -
March 1994

March 2000 -
March 2003

September 2009 -
August 2010



Dr. L. Jeyanathan
March 2003 -
June 2004



Dr. S. Sivarasa
(Acting Head)
June 2004 -
April 2005



Dr. N. Sivayogan
June 2006 -
June 2009



Prof. P. Ravirajan
October 2010 -
September 2016

March 2020 -
May 2020



Prof. K. Vignarooban
October 2016 -
February 2020



Dr. T. Pathmathas
June 2020 -
June 2023



Dr. A. Thevakaran
July 2023 to date

Staff Profile – Department of Physics

Academic Staff



Prof. P. Ravirajan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (Peradeniya)
DIC, PhD (London, UK)
Chair & Senior Professor



Mr. S. Senthuran
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (Belfast, UK)
MPhil (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. K. Vignarooban
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Peradeniya)
PhD (Cincinnati, USA)
Professor



Dr. P.A. Amalraj
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Canterbury, New Zealand)
Senior Lecturer



Dr. T. Pathmathas
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
ICTP Dip. in Theoretical HEP (Trieste, Italy)
MSc (Peradeniya)
PhD (Cape Town, South Africa)
Senior Lecturer



Mr. K. Prashanthan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MRes, DIC (Imperial College London, UK)
Lecturer



Dr. A. Thevakaran
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Colombo)
Senior Lecturer



Ms. K.H.D.D. Kumari
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
Lecturer



Dr. (Ms.) U. Sutharsini
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Malaya, Malaysia)
Senior Lecturer



Ms. S. Praveena
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
Lecturer



Dr. M. Thanishaichelvan
BSc (Eng) Hons (Anna, India)
MSc (East London, UK)
PhD (Wellington, New Zealand)
CEng (UK)
Senior Lecturer

Support Staff



Mr. T. Mathiamuthan
Staff Technical Officer
Grade 1



Mr. V. Tharsan
Technical Officer
Grade 1



Ms. A. Thenuga
Technical Officer
Seg. "B"



Ms. R. Renuka
Technical Officer
Seg. "B"



Mr. R. Dixithjanagan
Technical Officer
Seg. "B"



Mr. K. Chandrakumar
Technical Officer
Seg. "B"



Mr. T. Pirapakaran
Staff Management Assistant



Mr. A. Sasiruban
Laboratory Attendant
(Special Grade)



Mr. K. Jeyaseelan
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. S. Thineswaran
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. J. Subas
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. T. Suresh
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. K. Sarmilan
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. S. Nisanthan
Laboratory Attendant

Department of Zoology

University of Jaffna

Foundation and Establishment

The Department of Zoology is one of the oldest and most esteemed departments at the University of Jaffna. Established in 1974 during the early days of the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka, the department initially operated out of the laboratory and office spaces of the Jaffna College undergraduate section in Vaddukodai.

In July 1978, a significant milestone was reached when the Faculty of Science was relocated from the Jaffna College premises to the newly constructed Natural Science Block (NSB) – I in Thirunelvely. The Department of Zoology, along with the Department of Botany, occupied the first and second floors of the eastern half of the building, while the Department of Chemistry was housed in the western half. In 1984, with the Department of Chemistry shifting to a new block, the Department of Zoology expanded its footprint, taking over the entire first and second floors of the western side of NSB-I.

The department's working space saw further expansion on November 11, 2016, with the inauguration of NSB – II. The western wing of NSB – II was dedicated to the Department of Zoology, providing much-needed additional space to accommodate its growing activities and expanding academic and research endeavors.

Today, the Department of Zoology is equipped with a range of specialised laboratories designed to support both undergraduate teaching and advanced research. These facilities include the Elementary Laboratory, Physiology and Microtome Laboratory, Environmental Laboratory, Molecular Biology Laboratory, Microscope Laboratory, Cell-Culture Laboratory, Toxicology Laboratory, and the Insect Museum and Entomology Laboratory. Additionally, the department has established a Medical Entomology Laboratory, which focuses on cutting-edge research in insects that are disease vectors.

The department also prides itself on its Animal House and Insectary, both of which were constructed in 1981. These facilities are integral to various undergraduate and postgraduate research projects in

fields such as limnology, fish biology, aquaculture, herpetology, ornithology, toxicology, immunology and entomology. The Animal House supports research through the use of animals reared in-house, while the Insectary is vital for studies in vector biology and pest management.

Recognising the growing importance of data-driven research, the department has recently established a Bioinformatics Laboratory to enhance both teaching and research capabilities in this rapidly evolving field. This facility enables students and researchers to engage with the latest tools and techniques in bioinformatics, fostering a deeper understanding of biological data analysis.

Furthermore, the department has curated a well-structured Animal Museum within NSB – I. This museum serves as both an educational and research resource, offering students and visitors a chance to explore a diverse collection of specimens that reflect the rich biodiversity of the region.

The Department of Zoology continues to uphold a legacy of excellence, contributing significantly to the scientific community through its comprehensive programmes, state-of-the-art facilities, and commitment to advancing knowledge in the field of zoology. With its robust infrastructure and dedicated faculty, the department remains at the forefront of zoological research and education, nurturing the next generation of scientists and scholars.

Academic Recruitment

The Department of Zoology at the University of Jaffna began its academic journey in 1975 under the leadership of Dr. V. K. Ganesalingam, who was appointed as the founding Professor and Head of the Department on August 1, 1975. Mrs. N. Selvarajah, a lecturer, joined from Jaffna College, while Mr. K. Sachithanathan, previously with the Fisheries Research Station in Colombo, was also appointed as a lecturer. Additionally, Miss V. Santhanam and Mr. R. Ratnasabapathy, both from the Colombo Campus, joined the department as probationary assistant lecturers.

In 1979, Rev. Dr. G. F. Rajendram, a lecturer from the Zoology Department at the Peradeniya Campus, was transferred to the department. The following year, Dr. K. Chitravadivelu was appointed as a lecturer, and Mr. S. Sriskantha, a graduate from the Peradeniya Campus, joined as a probationary assistant lecturer. The department saw further expansion with the appointments of Mrs. P. Krishnarajah and, Mr. W. Venkatesh and Mr. P. Vinobaba as lecturer and probationary assistant lecturers in 1985. In 1987, Miss R. Rajeswaran and Miss R. Rajendramani also assumed duties as probationary assistant lecturers. The 1990s and early 2000s were marked by continued growth in the department's academic staff. Mr. B. Sivalognathan, Mr. K. Jayasingam, and Mrs. S. Kuganathan were appointed as probationary assistant lecturers in 1989, 1990, and 1992, respectively. In 1996, Ms. N. Ratnasabapathy, Mr. K. Parameshwaran, and Miss C. Rajendram joined as probationary lecturers, followed by Mr. S. N. Surendran in 1998.

The new millennium saw the appointment of Mr. T. Eswaramohan and Mrs. K. Sabesan, Mr. S. Kugathas, Mr. K. Gajapathy, Miss S. Piratheepa, Mrs. T. W. Shanthakumar and Miss G. Kandasamy as probationary lecturers in 2001, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2011 and 2013 respectively. In 2017, Miss S. Kokila and Mr. S. Arthiyan were appointed as probationary lecturers. Additionally, Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban was appointed as a Senior Lecturer (Grade II) in 2009, further strengthening the academic leadership within the department.

This recruitment history highlights the department's commitment to academic excellence and its continuous efforts to attract and retain a diverse and talented faculty, despite the challenges of brain drain due to the civil unrest that prevailed until 2009. These efforts have significantly enhanced the educational experience for its students.

Evolution of the Academic Strength

During the tumultuous 1980s and 1990s, the civil unrest in Sri Lanka had a profound impact on the academic landscape, particularly in the northern peninsula. The Department of Zoology at the University of Jaffna faced significant challenges as the strength of its academic staff fluctuated. Many

left the country permanently, and others did not return after completing their higher studies abroad. Despite these difficulties, a few dedicated individuals rose to the occasion and carried the department through its most trying times.

Among these stalwarts were Prof. V.K. Ganesalingam, Rev. Dr. G.F. Rajendram, (Mrs.) N. Selvarajah, Dr. K. Chitravadivelu, and Dr. (Mrs.) P. Krishnarajah. Their unwavering commitment ensured that the department continued to function even when the northern peninsula was completely cut off from the rest of the country. These individuals bore the brunt of teaching responsibilities and played a crucial role in maintaining academic standards during the height of the conflict.

By the mid-1990s, the situation began to stabilize, and the Department of Zoology started to rebuild its teaching capacity to align with other national universities. However, the late 1990s and early 2000s marked the retirement of the pioneering figures and stalwarts who had been the backbone of the department. This period ushered in a new generation of academics who took up the mantle of responsibility to lead the department forward.

Today, the Department of Zoology at the University of Jaffna is a testament to resilience and dedication. It is currently headed by Mrs. P. Sivakumar, with Prof. S.N. Surendran serving as the Senior Professor and Chair. The department's esteemed faculty includes Prof. Mrs. R. Gnaneswaran, Prof. K. Gajapathy, Prof. T. Eswaramohan, Ms. N. Ratnasabapathy (Senior Lecturer Gr I), Mr. W.V. Luckshman (Senior Lecturer Gr II), Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban (Senior Lecturer Gr I), Dr. (Mrs.) T.W. Shanthakumar (Senior Lecturer Gr II), Dr. (Mrs.) G. Parththuran (Senior Lecturer Gr II), Mrs. K. Senthoran (Lecturer), and Mr. S. Arthiyan (Lecturer).

Non-Academic Strength and Recruitment

The foundation and growth of the department have been made possible through the invaluable support and dedication of both non-academic and academic support staff. These individuals have played a crucial role in maintaining the department's operations and ensuring the smooth execution of its teaching and learning processes.

The department's journey began with the transfer of Mr. S. Narendran, a Laboratory Technician from the Department of Physics at the Peradeniya Campus, to the Jaffna Campus in July 1975. His expertise laid the groundwork for the department's development. In 1974, Mr. K. Nallathamby joined as a Laboratory Attendant, providing essential support in the early years. The department continued to strengthen its team with the addition of Mr. K. Ratnasingam in 1978, who transitioned from the Department of Agricultural Biology at the Peradeniya Campus to serve as the Chief Technician.

Throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s, several key members joined the department. In 1979, Mr. S. Sriskantharasan and Mr. T. Thillainathan were recruited as Laboratory Attendants, followed by Mrs. M. Sapanathan, who joined as a Clerk in 1980. In 1983, Mr. P. Vimalanathan joined as a Laboratory Attendant, and in 1985, Mr. K. Sribandakaran joined as a Labourer. The department further expanded its team with the recruitment of Mr. K. Ambikapathy in 1986 and Mr. S. Kugan in 1990, both as Labourers. Mr. S. Gnanasegaram also joined as a Laboratory Attendant in 2011.

The 1990s saw continued growth in the department's support staff. Mr. S. D. Sarvey and Mr. E. Amirthalingam joined as Laboratory Attendants in 1992, followed by the appointments of Mr. E. S. Thayaparan and Mr. N. Bakeerathan as Laboratory Attendants. In 1993, Mr. S. Thangarajah was also recruited as a Laboratory Attendant.

As the department evolved, the need for new recruits became evident, especially with the retirement of experienced non-academic staff. The dawn of the new millennium marked the beginning of a new phase in recruitment, ensuring the department could maintain its momentum. Mr. S. Tharmasena was appointed as a Labourer in 1998, while Mr. S. Kailyangirivisar, Ms. T. Kalpana, and Ms. S. Ajanthiniy joined as Laboratory Attendants in 1998, 2015, and 2015, respectively. Mrs. K. Niranjan joined the department as a Technical Officer in 2004, and Mr. V. Jegathampikipakan was appointed as a Technical Officer in 2007.

The department's administrative capabilities were strengthened with the appointment of Mr. P. Gajanthan and Mr. P. Pathmaruban as Management Assistants in 2009 and 2018, respectively.

Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

The subsequent years saw the addition of Mr. V. Thanushan and Mr. R. Sivakaran as a Works Aide in 2013, Mr. M. Rajkumar as a Works Aide in 2017, and Mr. S. Suthakaran and Mr. K. Kajalaksan, as a Works Aide and Laboratory Attendant, respectively, in 2018. Mr. K. Rathangan joined as Laboratory Attendant in 2019. The department also welcomed Mr. R. Partheepan as a Technical Officer in 2021 and both Mr. C. Narthanan and Mr. K. Lingesha as Laboratory Attendants in 2023.

Current Non-Academic Staff:

The current non-academic staff serving in the Department include Staff Technical Officers Mr. K. Sribandakaran and Mrs. K. Niranjan, along with Technical Officer Mr. R. Partheepan. The team of Laboratory Attendants comprises Mr. K. Rathangan, Mr. K. Kajalaksan, Mr. C. Narthanan, and Mr. K. Lingesha. Additionally, Mr. P. Pathmaruban serves as the Management Assistant, while Mr. S. Suthakaran, Mr. M. Rajkumar, and Mr. R. Sivakaran work as Works Aides.

These dedicated non-academic staff members are the backbone of the department, ensuring that it continues to function smoothly and efficiently. Their contributions have been instrumental in supporting the department's academic mission and enhancing the overall learning environment.

Evolution of Teaching and Learning

The year 1975 marked a significant milestone for the Department of Zoology at the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka. It was in this year that the University Grants Commission sent the first batch of students to the Faculty of Science to undertake the Bio Science course, which included Zoology. Preparations were made for the syllabus and teaching curriculum, including the procurement of laboratory equipment and library books and periodicals, to establish the course unit system.

Initially, the Bio Science programme combined Zoology with Chemistry and Botany, with the first cohort of students completing their BSc degree in General Biology. In 1979, the department commenced its special degree course in Zoology with an initial cohort of two students. In 1985, the academic structure saw a transformation with the introduction

of the semester system, prompting revisions in the curriculum, syllabus, and examination regulations. This shift was part of a broader trend towards modernization in higher education.

By 1993, further curriculum updates were introduced, and teaching and examinations were conducted according to the new syllabus. A major structural reform in the undergraduate degree program occurred in the early 2000s, when the faculty adopted the Grade Point Average (GPA) system to evaluate student performance. This change was part of an ongoing effort to enhance the academic experience and ensure the program met contemporary educational standards as per the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework.

From 2013 to 2015, the Biological Study programme received a significant boost with a 25 million LKR grant under the World Bank funded Higher Education for the Twenty-First Century/Quality and Innovation Grant (HETC/QIG). This funding was instrumental in revising the curriculum and enhancing the physical infrastructure of the teaching and learning environment. Prof. S.N. Surendran authored the proposal for this grant, with Dr. T. Eswaramohan serving as the Project Coordinator, and Dr. K. Gajapathy and Mrs. A. Sivaruban as activity coordinators. The grant facilitated substantial advancements in both curriculum development and infrastructure enhancement.

Further progress was made with the support of another grant from the World Bank funded Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) programme, awarded between 2019 and 2023. This grant, amounting to 18 million LKR, was used to further refine the curriculum and improve the department's infrastructure. Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban and Dr. (Mrs.) T.W. Shanthakumar wrote the proposal for this grant, with Mrs. Piratheepa Sivakumar and Dr. K. Gajapathy also contributing as activity coordinators. Additionally, Dr. (Mrs.) T.W. Shanthakumar was a key member of the proposal writing team for another 120 million LKR AHEAD grant for the Faculty of Science and served as one of the activity coordinators. This grant was utilised to further strengthen the department's infrastructure, teaching and learning environment, and research capabilities.

The Department of Zoology has proactively addressed the need for training non-university entrants by developing and offering a Certificate

Course in Molecular Biology Laboratory Techniques. This course has successfully trained two batches of students, with Dr. K. Gajapathy and Dr. (Mrs.) T. W. Shanthakumar serving as coordinators. In addition to this initiative, the department has embarked on the development of a new honours degree program in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. The structure and syllabi for this degree programme have been collaboratively developed by academics from the Departments of Zoology, Botany, Chemistry, and Computer Science. The programme is anticipated to be included as one of the degree offerings of the Faculty in the near future, further enhancing the department's educational offerings and research capabilities.

Research and Dissemination

The Department of Zoology has consistently made significant contributions to research and scholarship, cementing its reputation as a leader in various specialized fields. Noteworthy research areas include entomology, biodiversity conservation, population genetics, toxicology, herpetology, and sustainable development. Faculty members have extensively published their work in peer-reviewed journals and presented their findings at both international and national conferences, furthering the department's academic influence and outreach.

The department's research capabilities have been significantly enhanced through collaborations with prestigious institutions worldwide. These include the British Museum (Natural History), University College London, University of Wales, University College Bangor, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, University of Cardiff, Royal Veterinary College London, University of Manchester, and University of Nottingham in the UK; University of Oklahoma, Yale University, and University of Maryland-College Park in the USA; Jeju National University and KIOST in South Korea; Indian Agricultural Research Institute, CAS, Annamalai University, Tata Institute for Genetics, and National Institute of Malaria Research in India; Queensland University of Technology in Australia; and Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. These partnerships have facilitated joint publications, resource sharing, and the establishment of long-term research programs, significantly advancing the department's research agenda.

Research has been a cornerstone of the Department of Zoology since its inception. Early research initiatives were bolstered by support from the National Science Council of Sri Lanka, which enabled foundational work in various zoological disciplines. Prominent faculty members such as Rev. (Dr.) G. F. Rajendram and Dr. K. Chitravadivelu played pivotal roles in driving the department's research output. The introduction of the special degree programme in 1979 marked a critical milestone, providing a platform for in-depth research and scholarly inquiry in Zoology.

Despite limited external funding and facilities during the mid-1980s and 1990s, dedicated faculty members such as Prof. V.K. Ganesalingam, Rev. Dr. G.F. Rajendram in entomology, Mrs. N. Selvarajah in limnology, and Dr. K. Chitravadivelu in fish biology and fisheries continued their research efforts, maintaining the Department of Zoology's leadership in research and dissemination. Although the department suffered infrastructure losses and damage twice, once in the mid-1980s and again in the mid-1990s, it experienced a significant upward trajectory starting in the early 2000s. This was driven by the arrival of a new generation of academics who have played prominent roles in research both at the faculty level and across the university. Research areas have since expanded to include entomology, fisheries, herpetology, ornithology, toxicology, and physiology, with a strong integration of molecular biology.

The department's academics have secured millions of rupees in research grants from various funding agencies, including the National Science Foundation and the National Research Council (with Principal Investigators Prof. S.N. Surendran and Prof. K. Gajapathy), the Swiss National Science Foundation (Principal Investigator: Prof. S.N. Surendran), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (Principal Investigators: Prof. T. Eswaramohan, Prof. (Mrs.) R. Gnaneswaran, Ms. P. Sivakumar, Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban). Additionally, they have received grants from the University of Jaffna Research Grant (Principal Investigators: Prof. S.N. Surendran, Prof. K. Gajapathy, Prof. T. Eswaramohan, Prof. (Mrs.) R. Gnaneswaran, Mrs. P. Sivakumar, Dr. Mrs. T.W. Shanthakumar, Ms. N. Ratnasabapathy, Mrs. K. Senthoran, Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban, Dr. (Mrs.) G. Parththuran), the University Business Linkage Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

Technology Grant (Principal Investigator: Prof. S.N. Surendran; Co-investigator: Prof. K. Gajapathy), the University Grants Commission research grant for the PhD programme (Mr. K. Gajapathy and Ms. G. Kandasamy), and the Commonwealth split-site PhD scholarship to pursue part of the PhD programme at the University of Nottingham (Mr. K. Gajapathy).

The outcomes of these grants have earned the department international recognition, particularly in the field of medical entomology. The research grants have not only contributed to the development of human resources by producing postgraduate students but have also enabled significant upgrades to laboratory facilities, enhancing the department's research infrastructure.

In addition to laboratory-based research, academics involved in the UNDP/IUCN project have actively engaged with local communities in biodiversity conservation efforts in and around Jaffna and Thondaimanaru Lagoon areas. They have produced educational booklets particularly in the Thondaimanaru Lagoon area and made strategic recommendations to relevant government sectors for the conservation of biodiversity in the lagoon areas. These initiatives underscore the department's commitment to translating research into tangible community benefits and sustainable environmental practices.

Postgraduate Supervision

The Department of Zoology at the University of Jaffna is a leading force in postgraduate education within the Faculty of Science. To date, fourteen students have earned their M.Phil and PhD degrees, either through the department or the Faculty of Graduate Studies, while conducting their research within the department.

Mr. S. R. Krishnarajah (M.Phil, 1984), Miss P. Elanganayagam (M.Phil, 1984), Miss S. Ambikaipakan (M.Phil, 1989), Mr. K. Jeyasingham (M.Phil), and Ms. Nithiyagowry Ratnasabapathy (M.Phil, 2004) completed their degrees under the supervision of Prof. V.K. Ganesalingam. Miss F. R. Devarajah (M.Phil) and Miss N. R. Raymond (M.Phil) were supervised by Prof. G.F. Rajendram. Miss Chandrakanthi Rajendram (M.Phil) completed her degree under the guidance of Mrs. N. Selvarajah.

Ms. Abyerami Balasubramaniam (Ph.D, 2007) earned her degree under the supervision of Dr. (Mrs.) P. Krishnarajah and Dr. (Mrs.) S. Kuganathan. Mr. Gnanamuthu Anton Charles (M.Phil, 2010) and Mr. Sivagnanasuntharam Sutharsan (M.Phil, 2011) were supervised by Dr. (Mrs.) S. Kuganathan. Pavilupillai Justin Jude (M.Phil, 2012) and Mr. Kanapathy Gajapathy (Ph.D, 2013) were supervised by Prof. S.N. Surendran and Dr. Sara Goodacre of the University of Nottingham. Mrs. Vaithehi Kumaran (M.Phil, 2014) and Ms. Tharmatha Tharmasegaram (M.Phil, 2017) completed their studies under the supervision of Prof. S.N. Surendran and Dr. T. Eswaramohan. Ms. Kokila Sivabalakrishnan (M.Phil, 2018) was supervised by Prof. S.N. Surendran. Mrs. Sharmintha Piratheeban (M.Phil, 2021) earned her degree under the guidance of Dr. K. Gajapathy and Prof. S.N. Surendran. Mr. Tibutius Thanesh Pramanayagam Jayadas (Ph.D, 2022) was supervised by Prof. S.N. Surendran and Prof. K. Gajapathy. These accomplishments highlight the department's commitment to academic excellence and its crucial role in advancing scientific knowledge through rigorous research and dedicated mentorship.

Patents Secured by Academics

One of the significant achievements of our academics is the development of new technologies and securing patents for their innovations. Prof. S.N. Surendran was granted a National Patent (Sri Lanka) No. 21993 on October 23, 2023, for "A Novel Self-Contained System for Rearing Black Soldier Fly (*Hermetia illucens*) Through All Its Life Stages," with Mr. V. Mugilgeethan as a co-inventor. This patent introduces an innovative system designed to rear *Hermetia illucens* from egg to adult stage, optimizing the rearing process and improving efficiency in black soldier fly cultivation. Additionally, Dr. (Mrs.) T.W. Shanthakumar received a patent from the Korea Intellectual Property Office (Rep. of Korea) with Patent Number 10-1743275 on May 26, 2017, for "Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Markers for Detecting *Haliotis gigantea* and Method for Detecting *Haliotis gigantea* Using the Same." Co-inventors include Lee Jehee, Qiang Wan, Sukkyoung Lee, S.N.D.K. Bathige, Gelshan, I. Godahewa, and H.E. Jayasinghe. This patent focuses on SNP markers

specifically for detecting *Haliotis gigantea* (Giant Abalone) and provides a precise and efficient method for identifying this species, enhancing detection for both research and commercial applications.

Honours, Awards and Scientific Engagements

The current faculty of the Department of Zoology have earned significant recognition from both international and national scientific organizations, accumulating numerous accolades for their outstanding contributions to the field. These honours not only underscore the individual achievements of the academics but also bring broader recognition and prestige to the department as a whole. Their accomplishments are a testament to the department's ongoing commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and community engagement, further solidifying its reputation as a leader in zoological sciences.

Prof. S. N. Surendran has achieved significant recognition and honour in his field. He is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and has received the National Science Foundation Research Award, the President's Award for Scientific Publications, and the Professor Balasubramaniam Gold Medal from the Jaffna Science Association. Additionally, he was awarded the SUSRED award by the National Science Foundation and the Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship. Prof. Surendran is a current member of the National Dengue Vector Control Expert Panel in Sri Lanka (2022 - present) and participated in the Technical Consultation on the spread of *Anopheles stephensi* organized by the WHO in Geneva in June 2019. He contributed to the formulation of biosafety guidelines related to genetically modified mosquitoes organized by the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka and organized two National Workshops on Gene Manipulation in Insects at the University of Jaffna in 2011 and 2013. Prof. Surendran served as Co-editor of *Vingnanam – Journal of Science* from 2011 to 2012, Editor of the *Journal of Jaffna Science Association* from 2018 to 2022, and is currently a Member of the Editorial Board of the *Ceylon Journal of Science* (2023 – present).

Prof. (Mrs.) R. Ganeswaran is a distinguished Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and has made significant contributions to environmental and agricultural research. She served as a Member of the National Steering Committee of the Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme

UNDP for Phase V (2013-2017) and Phase VI (2017-2020). Additionally, she has played a key role in identifying pest insect species for various research institutes, including the Coconut Research Institute Lunuwila, the Department of Export Agriculture in Matale, and the Department of Plant Quarantine in Katunayake.

Prof. K. Gajapathy has been recognised with the President's Award for Scientific Publications and the National Research Council Merit Award. He has coordinated numerous wildlife biodiversity and conservation projects and played a key role in organizing a National Vector Biology workshop.

Prof. T. Eswaramohan has earned notable recognition in his field, including the President's Award for Scientific Publications in 2007 and National Research Council Merit Awards in 2014 and 2016. He participated in the International Training Course on "Universities and Technology-Based Economic Development" at the U.S. Department of Law Development Programme in Washington, DC in June 2019, and completed a short course on "United States Intellectual Property Law and Policy" at the Global Intellectual Property Academy in Virginia in 2019. In 2016, he received the Academic and Research Excellence Award of Fellowship at the School of Marine Biomedical Sciences, Jeju National University, Republic of Korea. Prof. Eswaramohan also served on the judging panel for the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission in 2021 and was a member of the Working Group on "National Innovation Ecosystem Development" with the Technology Development and Innovation Arm of NSF in 2022. He has participated in the Biennial Joint Meetings and Assisted Reproductive Technology Trainings (ART) of the UK Fertility Societies at the University of York (2007) and the University of Warwick (2005). Additionally, he was a member of the Ethical Review Committee of the Faculty of Medicine from 2014 to 2018.

Mr. W.V. Luckshman served as acting head in 2004 and played leading role in organising science exhibition held in 2004.

Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban has been recognised with the National Research Council Merit Award and has actively contributed to the Amphibian, Marine Snake, and Crocodile Specialist Group of Sri Lanka since 2012. She served as Co-editor of the

Proceedings of JUICE 2014 Issue and played a key role as Coordinator and Faculty Representative for the soft skills component of the UDG Programme from 2014 to 2015. Additionally, Dr. Sivaruban was Treasurer (2014-2015) and Chairperson of Section A (2017-2018) of the Jaffna Science Association. She coordinated workshops on Student-Centered Teaching for both staff and students as part of Activity 2 of the QIG of the HETC Project in 2014. As a vital member of the SER, IR, and PR writing committee (2018-2024), she has also organized a national workshop on "Hands-on Training on Herpetology - Amphibia" in 2017.

Mrs. P. Sivakumar has made significant contributions to her field through various prestigious roles and accolades. She was awarded the UNU – INWEH sponsored International Fellowship in 2012 and participated in the WASO-funded Summer Internship in Norway for the digital WASO Summer course in 2020. Mrs. Sivakumar serves as the Editor of the *Proceedings of JSA* and holds positions as Associate Editor, Proof reader, and Translator for the *Warana Journal*, Sri Lanka's first bilingual (Sinhala and Tamil) magazine on nature, since 2021. She is a member of the Ethical Review Committee of the Faculty of Medicine since 2020 and is a life member of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Biology, and SLAFAR. Additionally, she acts as the district representative for the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS).

Dr. (Mrs.) T. W. Shanthakumar has achieved notable recognition through various fellowships and roles in academic and scientific communities. She received the AMETEC & Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) sponsored fellowship in 2012 and was awarded the Brain Korea 21 Plus scholarship. Dr. Shanthakumar has served as Secretary, Editor, and Chairperson of Section A of the Jaffna Science Association (JSA) and has been an Associate Editor of the JSA Journal. Additionally, she is a member of the editorial board of *Vingnanam – Journal of Science*.

Dr. (Mrs.) G. Parththuran has made significant contributions in various areas of her field. She was honored with the Best Presentation Award for her oral presentation at the First International Conference on Biodiversity and Environmental Management (BEM, 2019) at the University of Sri Jayewardenapura. Dr.

Parththuran also served as a resource person for the workshop on Hands-on Training on Herpetology – Amphibia in 2016 and was an Associate Editor of the *Warana Journal*, the first bilingual (Sinhala and Tamil) magazine on nature by the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society from 2017 to 2020. Additionally, she contributed to the development of the syllabi for the Second National Language in 2014 and served as a visiting researcher in the eco-acoustics research group at the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia, recording bird sounds for two weeks in 2017.

Mrs. K. Senthoran has achieved notable recognition for her contributions to scientific research and academic service. She was awarded the President's Award for Scientific Publications in 2018 and received an NSF award the same year, along with a Certificate of Commendation for her MPhil research project. Additionally, Mrs. Senthoran served as Editor for the Department of Zoology Newsletter in 2019 and is currently the Secretary of the Jaffna Entomological Society (JES), a role she has held since 2023.

Mr. S. Arthiyan has been recognised for his significant contributions to scientific research and academic service. He was honored with the President's Award for Scientific Publications in 2018 and served as the Editor of the Department of Zoology Newsletter in the same year.

Centre for Research in Entomology

In 2020, marking a significant milestone in its 50-year history, the university established its first research centre, the Centre for Research in Entomology, within the Department. This centre was created to consolidate and coordinate entomological research and outreach activities, serving as a focal point for advancements in the field of entomology. The Centre is currently hosting two PhD students who are investigating the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying the adaptation of major dengue vectors, particularly *Aedes aegypti*. This research, led by Prof. S.N. Surendran, aims to deepen understanding of how these mosquitoes adapt to salt environments, which is crucial for developing more effective vector control strategies. The research is supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation, highlighting the global recognition and importance of the work being conducted. Additionally, the Centre is

collaborating with the University of Bern, leveraging their expertise and resources to advance research goals. The establishment of the Centre for Research in Entomology represents a significant advancement in the university's commitment to entomological research and its impact on public health.

Zoological Students' Association

The Zoological Students' Association (ZSA), established by the Department of Zoology, aims to provide students with valuable extracurricular opportunities and enhance their leadership skills. The association was first organized in 2013, with senior academics from the department serving as Senior Treasurers and the Head of the Department acting as the patron, guiding students towards their mission. The ZSA is registered under the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka (NSF/USS/JFN/043).

Over the years, notable academics such as Prof. S.N. Surendran, Prof. T. Eswaramohan, Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban, and Dr. (Mrs.) T.W. Shanthakumar have served as Senior Treasurers. The association has had a range of dedicated Presidents, including Ms. S. Kokila, Ms. S. Vaisnavi, Mr. S. Arthiyan, Mr. RPGN Rathnaweera, Mr. M.J. Priyanth, Ms. G. Subothini, Mr. A.K.P. Amerasinghe, Mr. R. Nirujan, Ms. L. Luxshana, and Ms. M.H. Sonali. Currently, Ms. K. Vasuki serves as the President, with Ms. N. Ratnasabapathy fulfilling the role of Senior Treasurer.

Some key activities of the Zoological Students' Association (ZSA) include erecting a stone plaque at the department entrance and hosting a felicitation for retired academics in 2015, a tree-planting campaign in collaboration with the University of Colombo in 2017, and organizing a blood donation camp in 2018. They also conducted a life-saving first aid workshop in collaboration with the Red Cross Society in 2018 and hosted a webinar on "Molecular Diagnosis of COVID-19: A Sri Lankan Perspective" in 2021. The ZSA participated in the Agriculture Exhibition conducted by the Northern Provincial Department of Agriculture in 2017, 2018, and 2019, and organized a workshop titled "Empowering Youth for Conservation" in April 2022. Additionally, they won a competitive grant from the UNDP (SGP/OP6/STAR/BD/2018/04) and successfully completed a project on a model for livelihood

development through landscaping and conservation in Kavutharimunai, Pooneryn, coordinated by Mr. S. Arthiyan, with funding of \$35,000.00 from UNDP and Rs. 2 Million (SLR) from MAS Intimates. The ZSA also organized the 3-Minute Research Challenge among undergraduates.

Jaffna Entomological Society (JES)

Founded in 2023 by entomology specialists from the Department of Zoology, the Jaffna Entomological Society (JES) is dedicated to advancing entomological knowledge and fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders. The society is led by Prof. (Mrs.) R. Ganeswaran as President, Ms. K. Senthoran as Secretary, and Prof. T. Eswaramohan as Treasurer, with Prof. S.N. Surendran and Ms. N. Ratnasabapathy serving as President-elect and Editor, respectively. JES aims to extend its expertise beyond the academic sphere, engaging with individuals and organizations interested in entomology, particularly in areas such as beekeeping, pest management, vector control, and the development of pollinator gardens. Key activities and objectives include promoting entomological knowledge through outreach activities such as workshops, seminars, and public events, focusing on beekeeping practices, pest management strategies, vector control techniques, and establishing pollinator-friendly environments. JES is also committed to enhancing science education among school children by providing training and fostering an interest in entomology and environmental science. The society collaborates closely with other organizations and institutions, including the Centre for Research in Entomology (CRE) at the University of Jaffna, to facilitate training for government agricultural officers and raise awareness about nature conservation and pollinator gardens among schoolchildren. JES is officially registered as an environmental organization under the Government Central Environmental Authority (Registration No. 6/6/17/10/04). Current activities include a training workshop on the identification and management of whiteflies on coconut for agriculture field officers and laboratory sessions on animal diversity, evolution, and molecular biology for school students. Through its initiatives and collaborations, JES plays a crucial role in advancing entomological research, promoting environmental

stewardship, and educating the public on the vital contributions of insects to ecosystems and agriculture.

Administration and Leadership

The Department of Zoology's administration has evolved strategically to support its academic and research missions, ensuring its growth and adaptability in a dynamic academic environment. Key milestones in the department's administrative history include the relocation to the newly constructed Biology Block in Thirunelvely in 1978, which marked a significant expansion of its facilities. This move facilitated enhanced research capabilities and provided a modernized space for academic activities.

Leadership from distinguished figures such as Prof. V. K. Ganesalingam, Mrs. N. Selvarajah, Prof. Fr. G. F. Rajendram, Dr. K. Chitravadivelu, and Dr. (Mrs.) P. Krishnarajah was instrumental in guiding the department through periods of transition and growth. Their steady guidance ensured the department's successful adaptation to changing academic demands and the maintenance of high standards in both education and research. Following the retirement of these first-generation pioneers, the mantle of headship has been periodically passed to senior academics, allowing for the smooth continuation of departmental administration.

Prof. V. K. Ganesalingam played a pivotal role in the history of the Department. In 1982, he was appointed as a member of the Academic Council of the Institute of Fundamental Studies, marking the beginning of his influential contributions to the academic community. His leadership extended further when he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Science in two separate terms: from 1988 to 1991 and again from 1996 to 1999. During his tenure, Prof. Ganesalingam was instrumental in shaping the direction and growth of the Faculty. In addition to his academic commitments, Prof. Ganesalingam demonstrated an unwavering dedication to community service. He served as the President of the Sri Lanka Red Cross during the early 1990s, a period marked by significant civil unrest. His leadership in this role was crucial in providing support and aid to affected communities, showcasing his commitment to humanitarian efforts.

Prof. T. Eswaramohan has also made significant administrative contributions, serving as the Director

of the University Business Linkage from 2018 to 2024. His leadership in fostering collaborations between the university and industry has been crucial in bridging the gap between academic research and practical applications.

Since 2011, Prof. S. N. Surendran and Prof. T. Eswaramohan have served as President and Secretary of the Animal Ethics Committee, respectively. Their ongoing roles in this committee reflect their commitment to ethical standards in research involving animals, ensuring that the department's research activities adhere to the highest ethical principles.

These leaders have not only contributed to the department's growth and administrative stability but have also played vital roles in broader university governance, shaping the institution's direction and ensuring its resilience in the face of challenges.

Serving the Community through Outreach Activities

The Department is at the forefront of engaging in community-based outreach activities and conducting awareness programs related to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. These initiatives are designed for both school children and the general public, reflecting our commitment to fostering environmental stewardship.

The Department's outreach activities also actively involve Zoology students through the Zoology Student Association (ZSA). This engagement provides students with valuable hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of the impact of their work on local communities. By participating in these outreach programs, students contribute to the Department's mission of educating and inspiring future generations about the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.

Prof. S.N. Surendran has made significant contributions to the field of entomology through the organization of two national workshops on Gene Manipulation of Mosquitoes in 2011 and 2013. Additionally, he has conducted periodic training programs for public health inspectors and members of the entomology team of the Anti-Malaria Campaign, further advancing public health initiatives and entomological research.

Prof. (Mrs.) G. Gnaneswaran has actively contributed to various environmental and educational initiatives. She has led the "Sustainable Organic Home Gardening with the Mitigation of Climate Change (Drought)" project in Maravanpulo, Jaffna. She has served as a resource person for numerous capacity-building and training programs, including workshops on environmental issues, regulations, and protection. Notable contributions include facilitating discussions on environmental management with administrative officers, delivering training on environmental regulations to women, and conducting workshops on mangrove conservation and pollinator identification. She has also contributed to the National Youth Dialogue on climate and green development, and participated in training programs on vector identification, environmental impact assessments, and biodiversity conservation. Her involvement extends to public awareness campaigns and scientific workshops aimed at enhancing environmental understanding and management.

Prof. K. Gajapathy has been extensively involved in environmental assessment and community-based programmes. He coordinated the environmental assessment and reporting for the renovation of the Nagarkovil-Eluthumatuwal bridge and the clearing of public land in Chundikulam National Park. He has conducted various workshops on science, climate change, and leadership for students and teachers and has facilitated youth capacity-building and skill development programs. He was a research team member for the Chundikulam National Park biodiversity survey, coordinated ecological surveys for Akkarayan and Kanagarayan rivers, and led the environmental impact analysis for the proposed water supply scheme based on Thondamarau Lagoon. Additionally, he wrote proposals and coordinated the Integrated Development Plan for the North Province and served on the Steering Committee for the Horse Conservation Plan in Delft Island.

Prof. T. Eswaramohan has made significant contributions to environmental and educational initiatives. He served as the Principal Investigator for the Mangrove for Future project, conducting baseline analysis for development opportunities at Thondamanaru Lagoon through an IUCN grant (2014-2015). He coordinated World Environment

Day celebrations and a plantation campaign involving 23 schools in Jaffna District in June 2013, funded by SEWALANKA and the Forest Department. In October 2013, he organized a plantation campaign and beach cleanup at Point Pedro, also partially funded by the Forest Department. Prof. Eswaramohan delivered a theme lecture on “Ecosystem Diversity in Northern Province, Sri Lanka” for an ecological and biodiversity field study in August 2013. He served as Chairperson of the Jaffna Science Association-Section A Pure Science in 2013 and contributed as a resource person in seminars for G.C.E. (A/L) science teachers.

Ms. R. Nithiyagowry has actively contributed to educational and research initiatives in Sri Lanka. She participated in the workshop on “Developing National Guidelines for the Protection of Animal Participants in Research” on September 11, 2008, conducted by the FERCSL and convened by the ERC at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. She served as a resource person, discussing the G.C.E. (A/L) Biology New Syllabus at the NSF, Maharagama in 2011 and 2016. Additionally, she has been involved in training programs for G.C.E. (A/L) Biology teachers organised by the National Institute of Education in Maharagama in 2009, 2010, and 2018. Ms. Nithiyagowry contributed to the quality development of textbooks organised by the Educational Publications Department at the Institute of Construction and Development Centre in Bataramulla from February 8-11, 2011. Since 2006, she has served as a chief and control marking examiner, and from 2021, as a co-controlling examiner for the G.C.E. (A/L) Biology examinations conducted by the Department of Exams and Evaluation, Bataramulla.

Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban has significantly contributed to education and environmental awareness through various roles. She served as a resource person for G.C.E. (A/L) practical training for Biology teachers in 2012 and conducted a workshop on incorporating soft skills into the curriculum for the Faculty of Science staff in 2013. In 2014, she led an awareness programme for school children across nine schools in Jaffna on “National Environment in Sri Lanka” and “Biodiversity of Sri Lanka.” Dr. Sivaruban was a key resource person for a workshop on “Shellfish and Finfish Status of Jaffna Lagoon” in 2015, supported by the Mangrove for Future (MFF/127) grant of IUCN. She contributed to the quality

development of Grade 11 textbooks on Aquaculture from April 6-8, 2016, and provided hands-on training on Herpetology – amphibians to undergraduates, laboratory staff, and school students on December 14, 2017. Additionally, she participated in the Sri Lankan Reptiles Red List Assessment in Wategama, Kandy, in 2019 and documented the De-Gazetted area within the Nagarkovil Nature Reserve the same year. Dr. Sivaruban also led awareness programs for bird identification in collaboration with the Centre for Children’s Happiness (CCH) from 2018 to 2020 and participated in a three-day scientific mapping exercise on medicinal plants, flora, fauna, and ecotourism in Delft Island, Jaffna District, in 2023.

Ms. P. Sivakumar has made notable contributions to environmental research and education. She served as the Co-Investigator for the Mangrove for Future project research grant through IUCN (Grant Ref No MFF/138) from 2014 to 2015, focusing on a “Baseline Analysis of Development Opportunities for Thondamanaru Lagoon, NP, Sri Lanka”. Additionally, Mrs. Sivakumar conducted a workshop on the scientific background of Thondamanaru Lagoon in 2015 and contributed to the EIA report for a proposed water supply project based on the Thondamanaru Lagoon in 2019. She has also served as the Editor and Chairperson of the Jaffna Science Association-Section A Pure Science from 2021 to 2023 and as the Chief Editor of the Jaffna Science Association in 2022. Furthermore, she has acted as a resource person for Science and Biology teachers in 2012, 2014, and 2016.

Dr. (Mrs.) T. W. Shanthakumar has been actively involved in various environmental and educational initiatives. In November 2023, she served as a resource person for an interactive workshop on ‘Environmental Issues, Conservation, and Management Projects,’ organised by Caritas-HUDEC Jaffna. She has also contributed to vermicomposting workshops for farmers at Vaddukodai East, organised by the Silent Spring group under the GGP project of the University of Jaffna. Additionally, Dr. Shanthakumar is involved with the British Council Sri Lanka as a resource person and facilitator for the Life Skills Development Programme and the Active Citizens Programme, benefiting students from the Faculty of Science and the University. She has conducted awareness workshops for school teachers on ‘Identification

and Control of Invasive Alien Species' from 2018 to 2020, and participated in a seminar and field session on wetlands organized by the Divisional Secretariat for Island South Velanai and Thenmaradchi in 2017. Dr. Shanthakumar has also coordinated workshops on 'Empowering Youth for Conservation' at the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, and on 'Preparation Session for A/L Science Stream Students' across several districts, including Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Jaffna, and Batticaloa, in 2022.

Dr. (Mrs.) G. Parththuran has actively contributed to the field of ornithology through various educational and outreach activities. In 2021, she served as a resource person for a webinar on "Birds of Sri Lanka" organised by the Jaffna Science Association, and also participated in a Tamil language webinar on "Ilangai Paravaigal (Birds of Sri Lanka)" organised by the Indian Ornithological Society, Crow Nest. She delivered talks on "Importance of Avitourism in the Northern Avifaunal Zone of Sri Lanka" to students at Jaffna Hindu College in 2020, and on "Migratory Birds of Sri Lanka" to students in the Northern Province in 2018, both organised by the Ministry of Irrigation, Sri Lanka. Dr. Parththuran also presented a talk on "Animal Calls - Used as a Tool in Survey" during the Hands-on Training on Herpetology workshop at the Department of Zoology, University of Jaffna in 2018. Additionally, she contributed to a three-day workshop and field visit for Migratory Bird Day Programme in 2016 and 2015, discussing the "Importance of Thondaimanaru Lagoon on Conservation of Birds" to school students across the Northern Province, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Sri Lanka.

Mrs. K. Senthoooran has actively contributed to various training and educational initiatives. She served as a resource person for the "Vector Identification and Incrimination" training program held at the Department of Zoology, University of Jaffna, in 2016. Additionally, she participated as a resource personnel in a Biology seminar for GCE Advanced Level students at Jaffna Hindu Ladies' College in 2018. Mrs. Senthoooran also contributed to the Provincial Agriculture Exhibition, organized by the Department of Agriculture, Northern Province, in both 2017 and 2019.

Mr. S. Arthiyan has made significant contributions in various roles. He provided laboratory teaching assistance during a training program for public health inspectors on medical entomology and pest management in 2016. He also served as a resource person for the Provincial Agriculture Exhibition in 2017 and 2019, organized by the Department of Agriculture, Northern Province. Additionally, Mr. Arthiyan rendered teaching assistance on Environmental Health and Environmental Law for Public Health Instructors in 2022 and 2023. He was a member of the environmental assessment team for the renovation of the Nagarkovil-Eluthumatuwal bridge and clearing public land in Chundikulam National Park in Kilinochchi, and participated in the biodiversity survey of Chundikulam National Park in 2021. He also contributed to the Environmental Impact Analysis for the proposed water supply scheme based on Thondamarau Lagoon in 2019. His involvement includes serving as a resource person for the "Let's Learn Our Pollinators" workshop in August 2016 and for a Certificate Course on Nature and Environmental Study with the Centre for Children's Happiness in July 2015. Furthermore, he led the International Coastal Cleanup Programme in Jaffna District in 2015, organized by the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) and the District Secretariat Jaffna.

Challenges

The department has faced several challenges over the years, including limited funding for research, the need for updated laboratory equipment, and the recruitment and retention of talented faculty. Additionally, adapting to rapid changes in technology and the evolving needs of the job market has required continuous effort and innovation.

Future Directions

The Department of Zoology is well-positioned for continued growth and advancement, with a clear vision and strategic initiatives aimed at furthering its mission and achieving its goals. Key areas of focus include:

- **Expanding Research Capabilities:** The department is committed to securing additional funding to support its research endeavors. This

includes updating and modernizing laboratory facilities to accommodate cutting-edge research and foster innovation across various zoological disciplines.

- **Enhancing Teaching and Learning:** Innovation in teaching methods and curriculum design remains a priority. The department is focused on developing dynamic, student-centered learning environments that better prepare graduates for the challenges of the future. By integrating the latest educational technologies and methodologies, the department seeks to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their careers and contribute meaningfully to society.
- **Strengthening Partnerships:** Building stronger collaborations with other academic institutions, industry, and community organisations is essential to expanding research opportunities and enhancing public engagement. The department plans to forge new partnerships and strengthen existing ones, creating a robust network of collaborators

that will facilitate interdisciplinary research and community-based projects.

- **Supporting Faculty and Students:** The department recognises the importance of investing in its faculty and students. Efforts will be made to provide more professional development opportunities for faculty, enabling them to stay at the forefront of their fields. Additionally, increasing support for student research and career development is a priority, with initiatives aimed at fostering a research-intensive environment and providing students with the resources and mentorship they need to succeed.

By focusing on these strategic areas, the Department of Zoology is poised to continue its tradition of excellence, making even greater contributions to science and society in the coming years. The department's forward-looking approach ensures that it remains a leader in zoological research, education, and community engagement, driving progress and innovation in the field.

Foundation and Establishment of the Department



Western Wings, which house the Department of Zoology, are located within the Natural Science Block I & II

Glimpses of Activities at the Centre for Research in Entomology



Opening of the Centre in 2020 and Participants of the National Workshop of Gene Manipulation in Mosquitoes



Guest Lecture and a training programme in medical entomology

Glimpses of Activities of the Zoological Students' Association



Coastal clean-up campaign and Biodiversity and Environment Education for School Students



Field excursion and biodiversity study at Sinharajah rain forest 2016 and Celebrating the wetland day in mangrove cover of Kavutharimunai, Pooneryn -2019



Erecting a stone plaque at the department entrance 2016 and Organized Blood donation camp 2018



Won a competitive grant from the UNDP (SGP/OP6/STAR/BD/2018/04) in 2018 and successfully completing the project on “ Model for Livelihood development through landscaping and conservation in Kavutharimunai, Pooneryn in 2020

Celebrating “World Elephant Day- 2024



Glimpses of outreach activities of the Department and Jaffna Entomological Society



Engage with the community and offer training programmes



Laboratory sessions on “Animal diversity and Evolution” and “Molecular Biology” for school students on 09th August 2024

Glimpses of outreach activities of Mangrove for Future project research grant through IUCN (Grant Ref No MFF/138)



Heads of the Department of Zoology (1975 - present)



Late Prof. K. Ganeshalingam
August 1975 -
September 1986



Prof. (Mrs). N. Selvarajah
October 1986 -
July 1990

November 1996 -
March 1997



Prof. K. Chithiravadivelu
July 1990 -
March 1991



Late Dr. Mrs. P. Krishnaraja
June 1997 -
October 2001



Dr. K. Parameswaran
December 2001 -
August 2003



Mrs. J. Nanthakumar
August 2003 -
May 2005



Prof. Mrs. S. Kuganathan
June 2005 -
June 2008



Miss N. Ratnasabapathy
July 2008 -
December 2011



Prof. Mrs. R. Gnaneswaran
January 2012 -
December 2017



Prof. T. Eswaramohan
January 2018 -
March 2021



Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban
April 2021 -
April 2024



Mrs. P. Sivakumar
May 2024 to date

Academic staff and their e-mail addresses
<https://www.sci.jfn.ac.lk/index.php/academic-staff/>

Staff Profile – Department of Zoology

Academic Staff



Prof. S. N. Surendran
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Colombo)
Chair & Senior Professor



Mr. W. Venkatesh Luckshman
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MS (Oklahoma, USA)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. (Mrs.) R. Gnaneswaran
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Peradeniya)
PhD (Peradeniya)
Professor



Mrs. P. Sivakumar
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Peradeniya)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. K. Gajapathy
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Jaffna)
Professor



Dr. (Mrs.) T. W. Shanthakumar
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Jaffna)
PhD (JNU, South Korea)
Senior Lecturer



Prof. T. Eswaramohan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Colombo)
Professor



Dr. (Mrs.) G. Parththuran
BSc Hons (Peradeniya)
PhD (Colombo)
Senior Lecturer



Ms. R. Nithiyagowry
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Jaffna)
Senior Lecturer



Mr. S. Arthiyan
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MSc (Peradeniya)
Lecturer



Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
PhD (Jaffna)
Senior Lecturer



Ms. S. Kokila
BSc Hons (Jaffna)
MPhil (Jaffna)
Lecturer

Support Staff



Mr. K. Sribandakaran
Staff Technical Officer



Mrs. P. Niranjana
Staff Technical Officer



Mr. R. Partheepan
Technical Officer



Mr. S. Nishanthan
Technical Officer



Mr. P. Pathmaruban
Management Assistant



Mr. K. Kajalaksan
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. K. Rathangan
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. K. Lingkesh
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. S. Narthanan
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. M. Rajkumar
Works Aide



Mr. S. Suthakaran
Works Aide



Mr. R. Sivakaran
Works Aide

Technology Transfer activities and achievements of Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna

The culture of Technology transfer was introduced to the University of Jaffna through the UGC Commission Circular 10/2016 : Strengthening of University Business Linkage (UBL) in State Universities. Thus the technology transfer office of University of Jaffna was established under the name of University Business Linkage (UBL-Jaffna) in 2018 with the support of World Bank funded AHEAD operations.

Prof. T. Eswaramohan was appointed as the Director of UBL-Jaffna with the support of all the deans and faculties to foster innovation, creation and commercialisation of Intellectual Property, and industrial partnership with the intention of elevating the research culture of the University to the Global Standard. All the faculties welcomed and worked for the success of UBL and the culture transition of technology transfer.

During the initial stage of operation, UBL-Jaffna was able to achieve key milestones in the University's history.

1. First Product Licensing by the University of Jaffna in 2021
2. First Patent owned by the University of Jaffna in 2022
3. First Product Launched by the University of Jaffna in 2022
4. First International Patent, PCT owned by the University of Jaffna in 2022
5. First Sponsored Research received by University of Jaffna in 2022
6. First US Copyright Owned by University of Jaffna in 2023

7. First Software Product Developed and Launched by the University of Jaffna in 2023

It is notable that the first patent owned by the University of Jaffna was from the Faculty of Science which was developed by Mr. K. Harichandra, a technical officer from the Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Science. The second patent of the Faculty which was the fourth patent of the university was developed by Prof. S.N. Surendran from the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science. So far UBL-Jaffna has filed 19 National patent applications out of which 4 has been granted.

UBL-Jaffna has facilitated 4 industrial licensing agreements which took the inventions from the lab to industrial application. The first licensing agreement of the Faculty of Science was for the invention by Dr. K. Thabotharan and Mr. Ramanaruban for an "Agriculture Product Management System". This was also the first software product developed and Launched by the University of Jaffna. This software product was licensed to a regional entrepreneur from Kilinochchi to ease the gap between farmers and consumers.

The historic licence of the first product developed and launched at University of Jaffna goes to Mullai Milk Processing Industry (Mullai MPI) from Udayarkattu, Mullaitheevu, Sri Lanka. Mr. S.Thavaseelan is the Chairman of Mullai MPI. He is also a proud alumnus of Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna.

UBL-Jaffna has funded 26 innovative research projects with commercial potential out of which 8 were for projects from the Faculty of Science. They have been elevated from TRL 3 (Technology Readiness Level) to TRL 6 and negotiation is in progress with industrial partners for technology transfer.

| Project Title | Inventor Name | Departments from Faculty of Science |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Smart Faucet | Mr. K. Harichandra | Fisheries |
| Gravid Female Adult Mosquito Trap | Prof. S. N. Surendran | Zoology |
| Black Soldier Fly (BSF) Rearing Setup | Prof. S. N. Surendran | Zoology |
| Enhancing the skin colouration of ornamental fishes using palmyrah fruit | Mrs. S. Sutharshiny | Fisheries |

| | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Agriculture Product Management System | Dr. K. Thabotharan | Computer Science |
| Tamil Conversational engine to provide customer support | Dr. K. Sarveswaran | Computer Science |
| Commercialising Software Solutions | Mr. S. Suthakar | Computer Science |
| Paddy leaf disease detection | Prof. A. Ramanan | Computer Science |
| Molecular based analysis for disease detection on Curry leaf trees for Global Exportation | Prof. K. Gajapathy | Zoology |

Under the funding of the Commercialising software solutions, the Department of Computer Source was provided with state-of-the-art server-related infrastructure for rapid software development, which has enabled the students and staff to develop and deploy software projects and mobile applications

to the benefit of the general public and also for commercial use.

UBL-Jaffna financially supported four workshops and six Industrial visits out of which a workshop and four industrial visits were for the Faculty of Science in the year of 2023.

| Industrial Visit | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Event Coordinator | Department | Title | Beneficiary |
| Prof. P. Iyngaran | Chemistry | Exploring Real-Time Cleaner Production Experiences | Final year Applied Chemistry Students |
| Mrs. P. Sivakumar | Zoology | Hands on training for aquaculture hatchery techniques | Final year Zoology special degree students |
| Mrs. S. Sathyaruban | Fisheries | Socio-economic factors that influence entrepreneurship in fisheries societies | Final year Fisheries special degree students |
| Mrs. G. Parthuran | Zoology | Eco-Tourism Development in the Northern Province | Final year Zoology special degree students |
| Workshop | | | |
| Dr. (Mrs.) B. Mayurathan | Computer Science | Sri Lanka Student Workshop on Computer Science (SL-SWCS), 2023 | National-level student-centered one-day workshop |

UBL- Jaffna has also conducted awareness sessions on Intellectual Property and Technology transfer to the students of Department of Zoology and Department of Computer Science.

UBL-Jaffna has opened up consultation opportunities for the staff of the university to transfer their intellectual knowledge to solve industrial and communication problems. On that aspect, UBL-Jaffna has facilitated a consultation project from an international entity to Mrs. S. Sathyaruban (Head/ Department of Fisheries) which has direct impact in regional economic development (in Progress).

These activities were facilitated by an Alumni of Faculty of Science, Mr. S. Anurakavan (39th batch of FoS) who has been serving as the Manager of the UBL-Jaffna since December 2021 and playing a crucial role in planning and implementing these milestone achievements.

The service of the faculty coordinators from Science has progressively supported and facilitated the transition for the cultural shift of technology transfer within the science Faculty. They are;

- Dr. K. Sarveswaran (Dept. of Computer Science)
- Mr. K. Gunaalan (Dept. of Fisheries)
- Prof. K. Gajapathy (Dept. of Zoology)
- Dr. T. Pathmathas (Dept. of Physics)
- Dr. M.Thanihaichelvan (Dept. of Physics) - Present UBL Faculty Coordinator

The World Bank Funded RIC (Research and Innovation and Commercialization) mega innovation project titled “Development of Novel Electrolyte

and Electrode Materials for Secondary Sodium-ion and Magnesium-ion Batteries”, received by Prof. K. Vignarooban (Principal Investigator), Prof. K. Velauthamurthy and Prof. G. Sashikesh which will be further supported for intellectual protection by UBL-Jaffna.



- Licensing agreement signing of “Agriculture Product management System” - first Software product developed and launched at University of Jaffna and the first licensing agreement from Faculty of Science.

The UBL-Jaffna is now being spearheaded by the leadership of Prof. K. Pakeerathan (Faculty of Agriculture) from 1st of June 2024. As the next stage UBL-Jaffna plans to stimulate staff and student spinoffs from the faculty, open up consultation and analytical services from the faculty and initiate an Enterprise club for students to learn and polish their entrepreneurship skills.



- Mr. S. Thavaseelan is the Chairman of Mullai MPI. He is also a proud alumnus of Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna launched the Bael incorporated Yogurt invented by University of Jaffna.



- UBL-Jaffna visited J/Skandavarodaya College in Kandarodai, Chunnakam, Jaffna on the 26th May 2023 and briefed on the opportunities /importance of innovation to the community and mankind with a core of “Have an Ambition and Goal in Life”.

Prof. T. Eswaramohan
Former Director/UBL-Jaffna
June 2018 to May 2024

Computer Unit

University of Jaffna

About Computer Unit

The Computer Unit was established in 1985 as a service unit under the supervision of the Dean of the Faculty of Science during the Deanship of Professor K. Kunaratnam with his effort. Mr. S. Kanaganathan was appointed as the first Head of the Computer Unit. Initially, it primarily served students studying computing as part of applied mathematics and offered facilities to staff interested in independently learning computer programming. Over time, the Unit expanded its services, including awareness courses for new entrants, training in computer usage such as word processing and database applications, and support for writing project reports, research papers, and theses. Eventually, the Computer Unit broadened its scope to serve the entire university community, providing a wide range of computing services to students and staff across various disciplines.

Expansion and Challenges

The Unit's services were not limited to the university; they also extended to the broader society. Before the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) operation, the Computer Unit conducted certificate and diploma courses in computing, benefiting approximately 400 students over four years. However, these programmes were disrupted due to the IPKF operations, which caused significant losses and led to a temporary halt in the Unit's services.

After the war, the Computer Unit gradually rebuilt its laboratory facilities and resumed its services to the university community. During this period, the Unit also conducted staff training programmes for accountants and administrative staff at the Jaffna Secretariat and Jaffna Teaching Hospital. Unfortunately, in October/November 1995, the escalation of the war led to another disruption, resulting in the loss of all equipment during a mass exodus.

Revival and Relocation

Initially, the Computer Unit operated on the ground floor of the Mathematics Block, providing computer laboratory facilities primarily to final-year students and staff. With the establishment of the Department of Computer Science, two rooms were allocated from the

Department of Physics for the Computer Unit, while the Department of Computer Science also utilised space on the ground floor of the Mathematics Block.

In 2004, the Computer Unit adopted the slogan "Computer Literacy for All," and since then, all students have been taught computer literacy as part of their curriculum. To support this initiative, Under the Deanship of Professor R. Kumaravadivel, by his effort, the Computer Unit moved to new locations. Staff rooms and computer server rooms were relocated to the first floor of the Vithyanathan Library block, where new laboratories were established with the consent of the Librarian and approval of the University Council. Additionally, two labs were set up in the new building next to the Department of Physics and Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Campus Wide Network and Online Services

The University of Jaffna also secured funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to lay out a fiber optic network across the campus. Thanks to Professor R. Kumaravadivel and Professor V. K. Samaranayake for their effort and cooperation in receiving the funds for this task. This project took about ten years to complete due to the unexpected resumption of war and other administrative and technical challenges. The project successfully established a campus-wide network, including the main campus, the Faculty of Medicine, Ramanathan Academy at Maruthanarmadam, and the Siddha Medicine Unit at Kaithady.

The campus-wide networking project was overseen by a monitoring committee under the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC), chaired by the Director of UCSC. Initially, the project was coordinated by Professor R. Kumaravadivel, who was the then Dean of the Faculty of Science and Acting Vice-Chancellor. Following his tenure, Dr. E. Y. A. Charles took over as the Coordinator and completed the project.

Since 2009, Dr. E. Y. A. Charles has served as the administrator of the entire campus network, working alongside the network managers of the university. In addition to managing the campus network, Dr. Charles also administers key network services,

including the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS), email, and the university's web services. The Computer Unit provides essential administrative and technical support to ensure the smooth operation of these services.

Courses conducted by Computer Unit

Under the initiative "Computer Literacy for All," foundational courses in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) were introduced

for first-year students across various degree programs in different faculties starting in 2004. Mrs. R. Mahesan, in consultation with Dr. S. Mahesan, played a crucial role in establishing these courses. Her responsibilities included developing course materials, coordinating with faculties, preparing timetables, conducting examinations, and maintaining records. The following table details the courses that were launched as part of this initiative.

| Degree Programme | Faculty / Unit | Course Code | Year Started |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Bachelor of Science | Science | COM105GA2 | 2004 |
| Bachelor of Arts | Arts | ACLA 12012 | 2004 |
| Bachelor of Business Administration | Management Studies and Commerce | COM 2103, BAD 2105 | 2004 |
| Bachelor of Fine Arts | Arts | ACLA 12012 | 2005 |
| Diploma in Fisheries Science | Science | COM102DA2 | 2005 |
| Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery [MBBS] | Medicine | IT Co-Module | 2006 |
| BSc in Nursing BSc in Medical Laboratory Science BSc in Pharmacy | Medicine | AHSBCL 1102 | 2007 |
| Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery (BSMS) | Siddha Medicine Unit | Introduction to IT | 2007 |
| Bachelor of Laws | Arts | ALCOM 11022 | 2010 |

In 2020, the Faculty of Science introduced supplementary courses at Level 3G for the Bachelor of Science Degree programme. The Computer Unit designed and delivered the following three courses:

ITE301G2: Software Tools for Scientific Calculations

ITE302G2: Computational and Scientific Programming using Python

ITE303G2: Web Development Technologies

Additionally, the Computer Unit has been conducting IT courses for the first and second years of the Bachelor of Arts (External) degree programme, offered by the Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL), since 2018. Following the restructuring of the External degree program to align with UGC guidelines, which mandated a 9-credit (10% weighted) IT component, the Computer Unit designed and began offering three IT courses for each year of the degree starting in 2023. These courses cover a range of topics, including Fundamentals of ICT, Office-related Applications, Online Workspaces, Web Development Technologies, and Database Applications.

In 2023, the Computer Unit also launched a self-financed Certificate Course titled Basic ICT Skills, conducted through the Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL).

Furthermore, the Computer Unit has collaborated with the Department of Computer Science to conduct courses in Information Communication Technology and General Information Technology for teacher training on several occasions, specifically in 2004 and 2005.

Laboratory Facilities

Initially, the Computer Unit housed a few computers like the Commodore Super Pet and Commodore-64, primarily used for running BASIC programs. As technology evolved, the Unit expanded its inventory to include various other computers such as Radio Shack, KayPro, BBC Micros, and a Micro Wax mini-computer. The facility was also equipped with peripherals, accessories, repair kits, power conditioners, and air conditioners.

However, the Computer Unit faced significant setbacks due to external events. The first major loss

occurred during the IPKF operation, resulting in damage and loss of laboratory equipment. A second, more severe setback occurred in October/November 1995 during the mass exodus caused by the escalation of war. During this period, all laboratory equipment was lost, including computers, peripherals, and other valuable accessories like UPS units and power conditioners. The inventory of lost computers included:

- 46 Micros (BBC Micro, KayPro, Radio Shack)
- 1 Sun Workstation
- 1 Micro VAX
- 35 Personal Computers (286, 386, 486-based machines)

The total estimated cost of these losses, including computers, peripherals, and other accessories, exceeded four and a half million rupees.

When displaced people returned in 1996, they found the Computer Unit completely devoid of equipment. The Unit was slowly refurbished through annual allocations from the University, initially with 21 personal computers, though this number was insufficient to meet the growing needs of students and staff.

In 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Government and rebels, leading to the acquisition of funds from the Asian Development Bank and World Bank. These funds, obtained through national projects under the Staff/Student Training Programme on Information Technology, enabled the purchase of new computers and the establishment of laboratories in the Vithyanathan Library block and new buildings next to the Department of Physics and Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

From 2005 to 2010, the World Bank funded IRQUE project significantly enhanced the technological infrastructure of participating institutions. During this period, additional computers were purchased with funds from the Institutional block grant allocated for Information Technology. This investment led to the establishment of eight fully equipped labs, providing improved access to modern computing facilities for students and faculty, thereby creating a more conducive environment for learning and research.

From 2010-2014 and 2017-2022, two labs were fully allocated to the Department of Computer Science

to accommodate the increasing number of students, a necessary expansion to meet the growing demand for computer science education. Additionally, one lab was allocated to the library for the digitization of materials, further modernizing the institution's resources and making them more accessible.

Currently, the Computer Unit has six labs, each accommodating 30 to 50 computers. Five of these laboratories are designated for practical sessions, while one is reserved for internet access for staff and students. The Computer Unit also provides laboratory space for computer-aided courses upon request from various faculties and occasionally makes provisions for self-financed courses or special workshops, charging a nominal fee per computer per hour.

Maintenance of Computers and Accessories

In 2004, new positions were created and filled for technical officers and lab attendants to support the operations of the Computer Unit. The technical officers are responsible for maintaining the Computer Unit's laboratories, focusing on technical aspects and ensuring the smooth functioning of all equipment. Their duties include repairing faulty computers, accessories, and network equipment throughout the university, as far as their expertise allows.

In addition to maintenance, the technical officers play a crucial role in the procurement process. They are involved in providing detailed specifications for the purchase of new equipment and are responsible for verifying that newly acquired items meet the required specifications before authorising payments. This ensures that all purchases are of the necessary quality and fit for their intended purpose.

Staff Positions of the Computer Unit

Until 2003, the Computer Unit and the Department of Computer Science were the only places in the University where staff members with formal qualifications in computing could be found. The following table summarizes the staff positions within the Computer Unit at that time:

| Staff Position | Number |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| System Analyst Cum Programmer | 01 |
| Programmer | 01 |
| Instructors (Temporary) | 04 |

In addition to these staff members, the Computer Unit is overseen by a Head, who manages the administrative matters of the Unit. While the Head rarely participates in the Unit's formal academic programmes, the dedication and tireless work of the staff members is

crucial. Their commitment has been vital in meeting the extensive needs of both staff and students across various university departments.

In 2003, after a long period, new academic supportive positions were established, and the following staff were recruited:

| Staff Position | Number |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Instructor in Computer Technology | 03 |
| Assistant Network Manager | 01 |

Heads of the Computer Unit

| Heads of the Computer Unit | Period |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dr. S. Kanaganathan | Dec. 1984 - Oct. 1988 |
| Overseen by Dean/Science | Oct. 1988 - Aug. 1989 |
| Prof. R. Kumaravadivel | Aug. 1989 - Oct. 1990 |
| Dr. (Miss) K. Somasundram | Nov.1990 - Oct.1995 |
| Dr. S. Mahesan | 06.10.1995 - 31.03.1997 |
| Dr. S. Mahesan (Acting) | 01.04.1997 - 31.08.1999 |
| Overseen by Dean/Science | 01.09.1999 - 08.11.2000 |
| Dr. S. Mahesan (Acting) | 09.11.2000 - 14.04.2003 |
| Prof. K. Kandasamy | 15.04.2003 - 04.09.2005 |
| Dr. S. Mahesan (Acting) | 05.09.2005 - 28.02.2008 |
| Dr. S. Mahesan | 01.03.2008 - 31.03.2015 |
| Dr. E. Y. A. Charles | 01.04.2015 - 30.06.2018 |
| Dr. K. Thabotharan | 01.07.2018 - 14.01.2021 |
| Mr. K. Ananthkrishnan (Acting) | 15.01.2021 - 14.02.2021 |
| Mr. K. Ananthkrishnan | 15.02.2021 - To date |

In 2005, an additional four positions for Instructors in Computer Technology were established and filled to ensure the continued success of the Computer Literacy program, which began in 2004 under the slogan “Computer Literacy for All.” The fourteen contract-based instructors have provided outstanding support for this initiative.

Furthermore, a System Engineer position was created in 2005 to support the maintenance of computers and the network infrastructure, further strengthening the Unit’s technical capabilities.

Permanent Staff of the Computer Unit



Mr. K. Ananthkrishnan
Lecturer
BSc [Hons] (Jaffna),
MSc (Colombo)



Mrs. P. Balendren
Lecturer
BSc [Hons] (Jaffna),
MSc (Colombo)



Mrs. S. Aravinthan
Lecturer
BSc [Hons] (Jaffna),
MSc (Colombo)



Mrs. V. Surendranathan
Lecturer
BSc [Hons] (Jaffna),
MSc (Peradeniya)



Mr. S. Sivaraj
Instructor in Computer Technology, Gr. I
BSc [Hons] (Jaffna),
MSc (Peradeniya)



Mr. R. Sanjeevan
Instructor in Computer Technology, Gr. II
BSc [Hons] (Jaffna)



Mr. S. Sivaskaran
System Engineer, Gr. I
BSc (Jaffna)



Mr. P. Kobikrishna
Assistant Network Manager, Gr I
BIT. (Colombo), MSc (Peradeniya)



Mr. V. Aravinthan
Computer Programmer
BCS (Colombo)



Mr. A. Jeyakanth
Technical Officer



Mr. M. Nadanathevan
Technical Officer



Mr. A. Kokulan
Technical Officer



Mr. R. Sivakumar
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. K. Sathiyakumar
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. S. Suthakaran
Laboratory Attendant



Mr. P. Jeyakaran
Works Aide

Retired Staff of the Computer Unit



Mrs. R. Mahesan
Programmer cum System Analyst, Gr I
BSc [Hons] (Jaffna), MSc (Wales)

Appointed on 01 January 1986 as a Programmer cum System Analyst, Gr I Continued her services until retirement on 31 July 2019.



Mr. M. Kulanthaivel
Laboratory Attendant

Transferred to Computer Unit on 01.01.1999 and served until retirement on 23.02.2019



Mr. K. Jeyendran
Laboratory Attendant

Transferred to Computer Unit on 01.08.2019 and served until retirement on 08.06.2023

Future Plan

One of the long-standing needs of the Computer Unit is the establishment of more space. A proposal

for a three-floor building was submitted to build a computer block in the area beyond the Library near the southern boundary wall. This proposal is currently awaiting approval from the treasury and the cabinet.

Alumni contribution to the Faculty: Paying back to the Faculty of Science

The Alumni and Alumni Associations of the Faculty of Science have made notable contributions to the faculty, enhancing various facilities in lecture halls and laboratories, sponsoring students in need, encouraging high achievers, beautifying the faculty premises, and donating essential equipment for teaching and research. Additionally, they sponsor personality development programs for new entrants, through which students engage in social action projects. These projects are designed to sharpen interpersonal, problem-

solving, planning, organisational management, and leadership skills, fostering an understanding of cultural differences and promoting harmonious living.

Moreover, our Alumni have generously contributed several million rupees to sustain the university's mid-day meal programme. The table below summarises the donations received by the departments and the Science Students' Union, all of which were approved by the council.

Donation

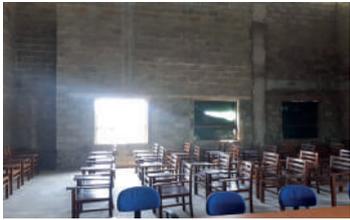
| Item | Description | Amount (LKR) | Academic Year of Entry |
|---|--|--------------|------------------------|
| Department of Computer Science (DCS) | | | |
|  | Wall mounted Batch Photos of alumni from 1991 to 2021. Customised circuitry design with QR code for the details of each batch. | 190,000.00 | 2009/2010 |
|  | 3D DCS logo in the lobby of the main entrance | 300,000.00 | 2010/2011 |
|  | 3D DCS logo fixed at the rooftop with the water tank | 130,000.00 | 2011/2012 |
|  | 3D name board of "Department of Computer Science" | 195,000.00 | 2013/2014 |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  | Keyboard-like backlit Key Holder | 127,000.00 | 2014/2015 |
|  | Wooden made PC Repairing Table | 50,000.00 | 2014/2015 |
|  | 20 Nos. of CCTV security cameras, 32-Channel NVR, 6TB HDD, IP 65 Boxes, and installation charges | 163,000.00 125,000.00 80,000.00 30,950.00 | 2015/2016 2007/2008 2013/2014 2011/2012 |
|  | Audio System for the Auditorium | 329,500.00 | 1992/1993 |
|  | Sofa Set (1+1+3) and Coffee Table for Office | 118,687.50 | 2008/2009 |
|  | 12 Nos. of Visitor Chairs | 106,245.00 114,345.00 | 2001/2002 2008/2009 |
|  | 10 Nos. of high back chairs for Seminar Room | 180,022.50 77,152.50 | 2003/2004 2009/2010 |
|  | 6 Nos. of Visitor Chairs | 117,045.00 | 2001/2002 |
|  | Sandblast Stickers for glass door at entrance and 29 Nos. of wooden doors with glass | 53,500.00 | 1996/1997 1997/1998 |

| | | | |
|---|--|------------|------------------------|
|  | Microwave Oven (20L) | 30,890.00 | 2005/2006 2006/2007 |
|  | Wooden Dining Table with Six Chairs | 115,258.75 | 2005/2006 2006/2007 |
|  | Wooden Table for Group Discussion | 43,391.25 | 2005/2006 2006/2007 |
|  | Two-tone Stone Seats (2+2+1+1) with Table | 41,000.00 | 1996/1997 1997/1998 |
|  | Armless Stone Seats (3+3) with Table x 2 sets | 52,000.00 | 1996/1997 1997/1998 |
|  | Stone Seats with Arm (2+2) | 21,000.00 | 1996/1997 1997/1998 |
|  | CS Think Park: Preparing the ground and installing paving stones | 173,250.00 | 1996/1997 1997/1998 |
|  | Executive Table for the Head's Room | 240,000.00 | 1995/1996 |

| | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  | Noticeboard | 55,000.00 | 2004/2005 |
|  | 2 Nos. of Steel fabricated cupboards for IoT Laboratory | 110,000.00 | 2004/2005 |
|  | Lecterns for the Auditorium and Laboratory | 30,000.00 40,000.00 | 2004/2005 2001/2002 |
|  | Head Table for the Auditorium | 132,000.00 | 1996/1997 1997/1998 |
|  | Shrine Cabinet | 65,000.00 | 1995/1996 |
|  | DCS logo printed Tea Cup & Saucer and Crockery Sets | 61,740.00 | 2012/2013 |
|  | DCS logo printed 30 Nos. of B&B Plates | 29,700.00 | 2004/2005 |
|  | Frames for Computer Science Student Photographs | 30,000.00 12,000.00 | 2004/2005 1996/1997 1997/1998 |

| | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
|  | Floor Rendering and Fixing Grill Gates for the Study Hall | 397,698.40 | 1990/1991 |
|  | Floor Rendering for the Corridor next to the Study Hall | 9,750.00 6,250.00 | 2014/2015 1990/1991 |
|  | Electrical Works (Lights, Power Outlets, and wires) for the Study Hall | 150,000.00 | 1994/1995 |
|  | Industrial Stand Fan (26 inch) and a 4-gang Extension Cord | 41,350.00 7,430.00 | 1990/1991 |
|  | Switch and Network Cabling for the Study Hall | 100,000.00 100,000.00 | 1993/1994 2008/2009 |
|  | 2 Nos. of 6'×4' whiteboards for the Auditorium | 17,000.00 | 1996/1997 1997/1998 |
|  | 3 Small Wall Clocks and a large wall clock for common places | 10,900.00 | 2008/2009 |
|  | Mamoty and Lawn Rake for the Park | 3,600.00 | 2014/2015 |
|  | Rubber Mats | 11,200.00 | 2001/2002 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|---|
|  | Mesh-type Floor Mats | 8,550.00 6,000.00 | 2005/2006 2006/2007 2009/2010 |
|  | Fixing five aluminum glass windows with grills, internal plastering of walls, fixing the ceiling, painting the walls, and installing lights and ceiling fans for Study Hall Areas 1 and 2 (in progress). | 4,617,783.55 | Mr. R. Ravimohan (Former Assistant Lecturer for the DCS's Pioneering Batch) |
| 5TB HDD Seagate One Touch External Hard disk | | 40,000.00 | Dr. Gita Sathianathan (Former Teaching Asst. Professor, Pennsylvania State University) |
| Dr. Sinnathamby Mahesan Prize for the Best Researcher Award in Computer Science | For a top-performing student in the individual research project during the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree Examination in Computer Science. | 200,000.00 | 1994/1995 |
| Dr. Sinnathamby Mahesan Prize for the Best Overall Performance in BSc Hons in Computer Science | For a student with the best overall performance in the Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Computer Science, based on his/her performance in Academic, Sports, and Other activities. | 200,000.00 | 2010/2011 |
| Department of Chemistry | | | |
| Professor S. Mageswaran Gold Medal, Founded in year 2001 | For Best Performance in Physical Science in the General Degree Examination with at least a Second-Class (Upper Division). | 201,000.00 (in 2001) | Former students of Late Professor S. Mageswaran |
| Professor S. Mageswaran Gold Medal Founded in year 2001 | For Best Performance in Biological Science in the General Degree Examination with at least a Second Class (Upper Division) | 201,000.00 (in 2001) | Former students of the Late Professor S. Mageswaran |
| Professor S. Mageswaran Gold Medal, Founded in year 2001 | For Best Performance in the fourth year Advanced Organic Chemistry units (Theory and Practical) in the Honours Degree Examination in Science, with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.30 in all the fourth year Advanced Organic Chemistry units (Theory and Practical) and obtaining at least a Second Class (Upper Division) in the Honours Degree Examination. | 201,000.00 (in 2001) | Former students of the Late Prof. Sivapathasundaram Mageswaran |
| Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran Scholarship for the best performance in Chemistry in Level 3M among the Honours degree students. | This scholarship is awarded to the student for the best performance in Level 3M Chemistry courses, based on the GPA of the courses aggregating to 30 credits. The minimum GPA shall be 3.30. In case of a tie, the final OGPA up to the end of third year shall be considered. | 3,665,000.00 (in 2023) | A group of former students of Late Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran deposited USD 1250.00 |

| | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|---|
| Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran Fund -2022 | Established bursaries to needy Applied Science (Chemistry) undergraduate students at the University of Jaffna | 3,265.000.00 (in 2023) | A group of former students of Late Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran |
| Department of Mathematics & Statistics | | | |
| Professor Balan Selliah Memorial Bursary | Needy student(s) studying Statistics as a main subject. | 896,095.00 (in 2020) | A community of past students, former colleagues, and well-wishers of late Professor Balan Selliah |
|  | Building material to renovate the lobby area (55 m ²) at the entrance of the DMS | 604,319 | Mrs.R.Shanthy 1984/1985 |
|  | Installation of curtain in four lecture halls (1M, 2M, 3M & 4M), office and lobby area. | 656,000 | Mr.A.Ganamohan 15 th Batch (1988/89) |
|  | Sofa set (3+1+1) and Coffee table for the lobby area of the department. | 85,000 | Mr.R.Jeyamayuran 25 th Batch |
| Dept. of Physics | | | |
|  | Installation of curtain in all general degree laboratories | 400,000 | Mr.A.Ganamohan 15 th Batch (1988/89) |
| Prof. K. Kunaratnam Scholarship in Science. Founded in year 2003 | To the needy students | 240,000.00 (in 2004) | Former students of Prof. K. Kunaratnam |
| Professor Kanthia Kunaratnam Scholarship. Founded in year 2002 | For the best student selected to read for an Honours Degree in Physics. | 50,000.00 (2002) | Mr. R. Jeyaruban, a student of Prof. K. Kunaratnam |
| Professor K. Kunaratnam Gold Medal, founded in 2003 students. | For honours students graduating from the Faculties of Agriculture, Science and Applied Science or Engineering with a First Class or Second Class (Upper Division) (based on points scheme) | 300,000.00 (2003) | Former students of Prof. K. Kunaratnam |

| Common facilities & Sponsoring personality development programme | | | |
|--|--|---------|--|
|  | TT board with bats, carrom and chess boards | 330,000 | 1982/83 Physical Science |
| <p>Personality Development through Social Action project</p>  <p>Innovative Mind: Ward renovation in child ward: Chavakacheri</p> | New Entrants enrolled in the academic year 2021/2022 | 400,000 | Jaffna University Graduate Association (JUGA), Australia |
| | | | |

More detail about the donation can be found from the following sites:

<https://www.csc.jfn.ac.lk/index.php/donation-for-the-new-building/>

<https://sci.jfn.ac.lk/alumni/category/alumni-news/>

1.2 List of proposed projects

Punniamoorthy Ravirajan, Dean/Faculty of Science

| Items/Works/Activities (<i>including proposed sketch</i>) | Estimated cost | |
|--|----------------|---------|
| | million(LKR) | USD |
| Extending the building of the Department of Fisheries  | 40.0 | 116,667 |
| Renovating the Optics laboratory (Dark) rooms, Dept. of Physics | 1.6 | 5,333 |
| Renovating the gas plant, Dept. of Chemistry  | 1.5 | 5,000 |

| | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| Renovating the Optics laboratory (Dark) rooms, Dept. of Chemistry | 0.5 | 1,667 |
| <p>Widening the main road of the faculty (150 m²)</p>  | 1.5 | 5,000 |
| Renovating large lecture halls (CHL, P1, B1) | 1.5 | 5,000 |
| <p>Renovating students' park in front of the Mathematics block</p>  | 1.0 | 3,333 |
| <p>Constructing vehicle park for the staff and students (300 m², floor only)</p>  | 2.5 | 8,333 |
| Renovating and partitioning the existing building above the office of the Dean/ Science for Board room / lecture hall. | 3.0 | 10,000 |
| <p>Renovating the Biological Garden, Dept. of Botany and its surrounding</p>  | 1.0 | 3,333 |

| | | |
|---|-----|-------|
| <p>Interlock paving close to the Chemistry building</p>  | 1.0 | 3,333 |
| <p>Renovating name block of the faculty</p>  | 0.2 | 667 |
| <p>Installing a large digital display for disseminating the activities of the staff, students and alumni</p>  | 0.8 | 2,667 |
| <p>Enhancing the outlook of the entrance of the Dept. of Chemistry. Building material to renovate the lobby area at the entrance of the Dept. of Chemistry</p> | 2.0 | 6,667 |
| <p>Enhancing the outlook of the Department of Botany Building material to renovate the lobby area at the entrance of the Department of Botany</p> | 1.0 | 3,333 |
| <p>Enhancing the outlook of the Department of Zoology Building material to renovate the lobby area at the entrance of the Department of Zoology</p> | 1.0 | 3,333 |
| <p>Enhancing the outlook of the Department of Physics Building material to renovate the lobby area at the entrance of the Department of Physics</p> | 1.0 | 3,333 |
| <p>Enhancing the outlook of the entrance to the Department of Physics</p> | 1.0 | 3,333 |

| | | |
|--|------|---------|
| <p>Installation of solar panels on the roof of the departments' building (Stage 1)</p>  | 50.0 | 166,667 |
|--|------|---------|

Proposed future outlook of the Faculty: https://youtu.be/yEwNN_wnW1g

Draft video file was created by Mr. Nuwan Karunathilaka, Alumnus of the faculty

Alumni and Alumni Associations interested in supporting proposed projects are warmly encouraged to reach out to the Dean of the Faculty of Science at deanscience@univ.jfn.ac.lk or the Faculty of Science Alumni Association at fosaa@univ.jfn.ac.lk. Please note that all donations will be processed by the Faculty following approval by the University Council.

1.3 Professor Mageswaran Fund (PMF) for Establishment of Chemistry Instrument Facility

Dr. Gita Sathianathan



BSc Hons (Chemistry) Ceylon, PhD (Sheffield, UK), DSc (Jaffna)

Former Head of Department of Chemistry, University of Jaffna

Former Rector at Vavuniya Campus, University of Jaffna.

The Professor Mageswaran Fund (PMF) was established in her memory on April 20th, 2022, to offer the gift of Education, as she did to others. The fund has established five recurring annual Bursaries, a Gold Medal in Chemistry for Best Performance in Inorganic Chemistry in the Final year, and a Scholarship for Best Overall Performance in the third year in Professor Mrs. Rajeswary Mageswaran's name. We thank those who donated generously to the Fund. The Professor Mageswaran Fund has established a Chemistry Instrument Facility in the Mageswaran Block with approval from the University Faculty Senate and the Finance Committee in 2023.

https://3a51ce0f-548b-4824-b16a-1db61b121dba.filesusr.com/ugd/e25e55_e26a9a3763ac481ea4f6221c9c6ff06c.pdf

How can you help the Professor Mageswaran Fund?

Creating a Chemistry Instrumentation Facility in Prof. (Mrs.) R. Maheswaran's name to honour and remember her life and works is one of the best ways to show our appreciation for her life. The Faculty of Science is in dire need of a well-equipped Instrument Facility to train students in analytical and laboratory skills required for basic employment in today's competitive and tech-savvy world. The Professor Mageswaran Fund has worked closely with the Department of Chemistry to obtain from approval of the council with recommendation of the Faculty Board and Finance committee set up an Instrument Facility within the Chemistry Department. This facility would be significant to train all science faculty students, including biological and physical sciences streams, from first year to final year in the use of Analytical instruments. We need funds to meet the set-up cost for renovating the space

and to make it secure and accessible to students. Please see the grant proposal, https://3a51ce0f-548b-4824-b16a-1db61b121dba.filesusr.com/ugd/e25e55_83e4112ce6384a34abe6d102a027af04.pdf

Please donate funds and refurbished machines for student use from your workplaces such as GC, HPLC, LC, GCMS, Instruments for Biology and Physics Labs to make our graduates among the top in the nation for job securement, as well as for gaining scholarships and admission for higher studies.

We acknowledge our gratitude for Analytical Instruments such as UV-Visible spectrometer, Infra-red spectrometer, nanodrop, etc from Mr. N Baskaran (UK) and Dr. Shanthi Mylvaganam (Canada) and hope to receive or purchase more in the future. We wish to thank Mr. Rajagopalan (brother of Prof. Mrs. Mageswaran) for his monetary support.

Dr. Gita Sathianathan, Former Teaching Assistant Professor at the Pennsylvania State University, PA, USA and retired as a Lecturer from the California State University, Fullerton, California.

A Tribute to Late Emeritus Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran

The First Batch of Chemistry Students at the University of Jaffna

*R. Thangarasa, K. Nalayini; J. Shanthini;
N. Sivapalan; E. Jeyarajah*

Tribute from <https://profrajeswarymages.wixsite.com/professor-mageswaran>

Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran was our teacher, mentor, and friend at the University of Jaffna. We joined University of Jaffna in 1975 and were privileged to be the first batch of Chemistry and Chemistry Special students. We loved the University of Jaffna as something of our own and were hungry for knowledge. We suffered the worst of the brutal effects of standardization and district quota. We wanted to prove to ourselves and to the world that language-wise standardization and quotas are not

going to limit us in our achievements. At that time the Late Professor S. Mageswaran was the only person with a doctorate qualification in the Department of Chemistry. Unfortunately, Professor S Mageswaran had to manage the department with only a handful of junior staff, and we were told that another doctorate is coming next year, and that person is a woman and also that she is the wife of our beloved Professor S. Mageswaran. We were thrilled by that news and waited patiently for her arrival. We were instantly elated when she assumed her role inside the classrooms and the laboratories. She along with her late husband Prof. S. Mageswaran were the iconic couple kindling scientific curiosity and scholarship among the crop of science students at the University of Jaffna for decades. Although Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran had her higher studies in Inorganic Chemistry she taught us from the entire spectrum of Inorganic Chemistry and Physical Chemistry. She taught topics as wide as from Chemistry of Main Group Elements to Bio inorganic Chemistry, from Atomic and Molecular Structure to Applications of Group Theory and Diffraction Methods and from Coordination Chemistry to Advanced Spectroscopic Methods. She gave special attention to supplement theoretical topics with appropriately designed experimental learning in the laboratory. While teaching a class there were occasions where she would probe us with questions to test our understanding. If she sensed that we didn't quite get it, she will tirelessly repeat the whole lesson until we get the concepts right. She was always approachable, kind, and friendly. Along with her husband, she worked untiringly to build the Chemistry department at University of Jaffna and to establish the highest possible academic standards. The Chemistry Department of the University of Jaffna is widely respected for its quality of teaching and assessment because of the foundations laid by Professors S and R Mageswaran. She carried out pioneering research in the fields that are vital to the North. Her research involved topics such as the analysis of ground water quality in the North, analysis of palmyrah products and analysis of sea food that are specific to the North,

among others. She also supervised many students in their postgraduate research. When she retired in the year 2010, a Gold Medal for the best performance in Inorganic Chemistry was established with the initiative of one of us and with the contribution of her past students and well-wishers. The gold medal will be awarded annually and will remain as a lasting tribute to her legacy. Her students are spread across the world contributing to humanity in the science and medical fields. Interacting with her past students had been a fulfilling experience for her. Though we have lost her so suddenly, we strive to celebrate her beautiful life in service, remembering the impact she made in the lives of countless students including us. We offer our heartfelt sympathies to the family of Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran and carry forward her memory with deep gratitude. May her soul rest with God in eternity!

Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran: A Life of Dedication and Sacrifice

Dr. Gita Sathianathan

Tribute from <https://profrajeswarymages.com/professor-mageswaran>

We were privileged to receive direct mentorship from Professor R and Mrs. S Mageswaran, from whom we learned the values of dedication and service. The knowledge and commitment imparted to us by Prof. and Mrs. Mageswaran are deeply appreciated. Both individuals, highly intelligent and industrious, dedicated their lives to the sole welfare of their students. The Chemistry department building stands as a testament to their unwavering support and serves as a model for other Science buildings at the Faculty of Science.

Mrs. Mageswaran, a quiet, extremely intelligent, and passionate researcher, remained faithful and dedicated to her students and staff at the University until the conclusion of her career. Both Prof. and Mrs. Mageswaran consistently commenced work by 7 am and departed after 6 pm, diligently serving students and upholding an exceptional standard of Chemistry education, recognized globally. Even on

Saturdays, Professors Mageswaran tirelessly engaged in research, teaching, ensuring timely procurement of chemicals and lab equipment, coordinating staff meeting schedules, overseeing activities, mentoring new lecturers and demonstrators, guiding students in applications to foreign Universities, facilitating PhD opportunities abroad, providing counseling, coordinating curricula with other departments, hiring and training faculty and staff, establishing a robust research program for undergraduate and postgraduate students, organizing seminars, and fulfilling numerous other duties daily.

Had they departed the University during the war, the entire careers of Chemistry Honours students would have been jeopardized, potentially impeding the attainment of PhD degrees and professional advancement. Following the completion of our Chemistry Honours degree, Professor Mrs. Mageswaran fostered a relationship akin to that of a friend and ally, engaging in personal conversations, sharing laughter, and spending time in the staff room.

Mrs. Mageswaran discussed her research at the University of Dublin, Ireland, encompassing physical organic chemistry and inorganic chemistry, thus sparking an interest in pure research and influencing my subsequent pursuit of Crystal Field Theory at California State University, Riverside, CA, USA. This pursuit transitioned to Organic Chemistry due to professional prospects.

Even amidst war, the stringent academic standards upheld by the department provided us with a rigorous and comprehensive educational experience, facilitating adeptness in entrance exams and courses abroad. The principles and fundamental knowledge imparted by Professors S. and R. Mageswaran endure in our minds. We acquired a profound and comprehensive knowledge base, enabling the exploration of analytic methods, rational thinking, and scientific logic that have guided our ongoing research.

The mode of inquiry-based learning we imbibed has significantly influenced my teaching and curriculum development over the past 25 years in the USA. When instructing University students here, I often reflect

upon their commitment and dedication, as I strive to match their levels of engagement, often extending beyond the customary hours. When confronted with challenges, I draw inspiration from their extraordinary sacrifice and unwavering dedication amidst the adversities of war. In comparison, my own challenges seem trifling, spurring me to surmount obstacles and perpetuate the bestowal of education, mirroring their selfless contribution to our academic development.

We are profoundly grateful to have been witness to a life characterized by such unwavering dedication, intellect, and sacrifice

The organizers of Professor Mageswaran Fund thank you for your Donation and Support!

- Dr. Gita Sathianathan, California State University, Fullerton, CA
- Mrs. Janaki Nicholas, Nonsuch High School in Surrey, UK
- Mr. Nagendran Baskaran, Zeta Analytics Business in UK
- Mr. S. Rajagobalan, Findexgroup, London, UK.
- Dr. N. Sivapalan (fomer member), Department of Chemistry, University of Jaffna.

“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I’m not sure about the universe.” - Albert Einstein (1879-1955)



“A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life.” - Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

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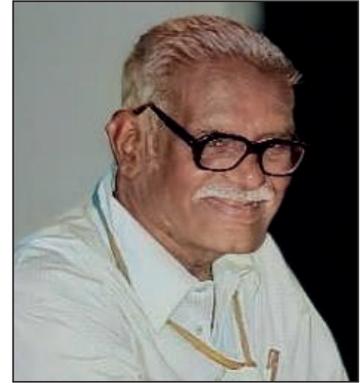
Honouring Our Legacy: In Loving Memory



Prof. P. Kanagasabapathy



Prof. Kanthia Kunaratnam



Prof. V. K. Ganesalingam



Prof. Sivapathasundaram Mageswaran



Prof. Rajeswary Mageswaran



Mrs. Navamany Selvarajah



Rev. Fr. Dr. Guy Fontgalland Rajendram



Dr. Karthigesu Chitravadivelu



Prof. Ratnam Vigneswaran



Dr. Padmini Krishnarajah



Dr. Arumathurai Sivapalan



Prof Jacob Balan Selliah



Prof Somasunderam Kandiah



Professor P. Kanagasabapathy :

The founding Dean of the Faculty of Science

Professor Kanagasabapathy's legacy is indelibly intertwined with the history of the University of Jaffna. When the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka was declared open, he assumed the role of Dean of the Science Faculty and Professor of Mathematics, a widely acclaimed appointment.

Under Professor Kanagasabapathy's guidance, the Science Faculty flourished like a sturdy tree, sprouting numerous branches over the past fifty years. His unwavering dedication played a pivotal role in its initial success and subsequent growth.

He established the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, assembling a capable team of young lecturers. Leveraging his influence, he invited eminent personalities to deliver lectures at the Jaffna Campus, including luminaries like

- Dr. (Mrs). U. Coomaraswamy -from Colombo Campus
- Dr. I.M. Wilson -from Colombo Campus
- Dr. Gamini Seneviratne -from Peradeniya Campus
- Dr. Manikka Idaikar -from F.A.O / World Bank

Despite his unassuming demeanour, Professor Kanagasabapathy radiated wisdom, confidence, and courage—a testament to his selflessness and integrity. His influence motivated many generations of students to achieve greater heights and empowered them to carry forward his legacy of serving humanity.

Tragically, Professor Kanagasabapathy passed away suddenly from a heart attack on January 23, 1977. His departure left a void, and uncertainty loomed over who would lead the Faculty of Science in his wake. The next dean, Professor Kunaratnam, humbly stated, "I am not here to replace him; I am here to follow in his footsteps." This statement aptly reflects the immense respect Professor Kanagasabapathy commanded among the members of the faculty.

Background of Education and Academic Accomplishments

Kanagasabapathy was born in the village of Erlalai on July 1, 1922, to Mr. and Mrs. Iyampillai Perampalam. His father was a renowned practitioner of native medicine. Young Kanagasabapathy attended Jaffna Hindu College and later was selected to study Science at the University College, Colombo. His exceptional performance in his bachelor's degree in science led to his appointment as an assistant lecturer in Mathematics in the Science Faculty.

During this period, he collaborated with some exceptional individuals as a fellow lecturer and mentored many creative minds in his role as a lecturer. Eliezer, who later gained international recognition as a professor of mathematics, also worked as an assistant lecturer alongside Mr. Kanagasabapathy. Notably, one of Kanagasabapathy's students, S. B. P. Wickramasuriya, went on to become the Professor of Mathematics and Dean of the Faculty of Science later at the Vidyalandara Campus of the University of Sri Lanka.

After a few years, Kanagasabapathy advanced to the position of senior lecturer and received a scholarship to study Mathematics at the University of Cambridge. He complied with the requirement of the university and first completed his undergraduate Mathematics degree with first-class honours and was awarded the Senior Wrangler prize for the Mathematical Tripos Examination. Continuing his academic journey, he earned a master's degree in mathematics.

During his pursuit of a doctoral research degree, organizational changes occurred within Ceylon's university structure under the Vice-Chancellorship of Sir Ivor Jennings. Kanagasabapathy was recalled to Ceylon and entrusted with the leadership of the mathematics department at the newly established Peradeniya Campus. This appointment reflected the

university's confidence in his capacity and sincerity though he was relatively young in the department. Despite potential sacrifices to his future career prospects, he embraced the role wholeheartedly. Under his guidance, the Department of Mathematics thrived, producing a lineage of accomplished mathematicians. In 1968, he was appointed as the Professor of Mathematics at the Peradeniya Campus.

Career Path and Professional Achievements

Peradeniya Campus: Upon returning to Ceylon in 1952, Kanagasabapathy assumed the role of head of the Department of Mathematics at the newly established Peradeniya Campus. With unwavering sincerity and dedication, he single-handedly built up the department, providing it with a robust, well-planned curriculum for undergraduate Mathematics courses. His visionary approach extended to postgraduate and master's level programs, which he successfully ran alongside the regular undergraduate courses for fifteen continuous years.

These remarkable achievements and unique experiences prepared him exceedingly well for a similar role at the newly formed Jaffna Campus, twenty-one years down the line. During his tenure as a senior lecturer, department head, and professor, he also actively engaged himself in non-educational activities to enhance student welfare. Notably, he played a pivotal role in constructing the beautiful Kurinchi Kumaran Temple—a cherished religious shrine for Hindu students at the University of Peradeniya.

Professor Kanagasabapathy also contributed to foreign university research magazines, particularly in his favourite field of Number Theory. When he passed away in 1977, Professor Appapillai praised the quality of his research articles in a heartfelt eulogy.

Jaffna Campus: On October 1, 1974, Professor P. Kanagasabapathy was appointed as the Inaugural Dean of the Faculty of Science at the Jaffna Campus, the sixth campus established under the University of Sri Lanka. Wholeheartedly accepting this pioneering role, he faced challenges similar to those he encountered two decades earlier. Opting to offer Statistics as a major subject rather than a mere unit of Mathematics, he faced the issues such as inadequate library facilities and underfunding with courage. The distinguished professor's appeal to the grants committee through the

senate for additional funding was successful, thanks to his influential voice. To deal with the problem of staff shortages, he personally taught several modules, greatly benefiting the fortunate students of the first two batches.

Professor Kanagasabapathy's influence extended beyond the classroom. Leveraging personal connections, he invited many eminent personalities from other campuses and world class institutions to handle special units. Under his guidance, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics achieved a unique status across all six campuses of the University of Sri Lanka. His wisdom, patience, and legendary reputation endeared him to both academic and administrative staff of the university. On top of this, invitations from schools, colleges, and other institutions to grace their functions as the chief guest further underscored his esteemed standing, he enjoyed among all walks of life.

Service to the Local Community:

In addition to teaching university students, he organized diploma programs in Mathematics for external students. On Saturdays, he conducted Mathematics classes for teachers in Northern Province schools, helping them update and enhance their knowledge of the New Mathematics curriculum introduced in the country at that time.

Promoting Harmony Among Communities:

The non-political magazine "Ootru," published in Jaffna chiefly for the educated community, had been advocating for knowledge and understanding as tools for resolving economic and political issues in the country. In December 1973, Professor P. Kanagasabapathy was elected as the president of the Ootru Foundation and served in this position with distinction until his untimely demise. He was fully committed to using knowledge and goodwill to benefit humanity, rather than resorting to conflicts and violence. His articles in the magazine covered topics ranging from educational system improvements to addressing water pollution in Jaffna peninsula. During his three-year tenure as president of the foundation, the quality of the magazine significantly improved under his leadership.

Legacy of Professor Kanagasabapathy:

Upon his passing away, both students and staff



felt as though they had lost the father figure of their academic family. Condolences poured in from universities, government departments, and foreign countries, overwhelming the telegram services of post offices in Thirunelveli and Erlalai. This sombre moment marked a dark hour in the history of Jaffna Campus. Grief permeated the atmosphere, etched on the faces of the thousands who gathered to bid him a final farewell. To the amazement of the villagers, mourners from all corners of the country flooded the remote village of Erlalai.

Professor Kanagasabapathy's legacy was awe-inspiring. He excelled as a brilliant mathematician, a dedicated teacher and professor, a humanitarian, and a person of noble ideals. Almost single-handedly, he established and elevated two Departments of Mathematics in Peradeniya Campus and Jaffna Campus to prestigious positions. Until his last breath, he tirelessly strived towards improving the quality of university education and promoting science

education in Sri Lanka. Under his seasoned guidance, many students achieved distinctions in their chosen careers. The Science Faculty at the University of Jaffna stands as a silent monument to witness the greatness of Professor Kanagasabapathy—one of the Founding Trios of the university. His name continues to inspire the fortunate students who had the privilege of studying under him - one of the greatest teachers of all times.

Salutations to the Founding Father:

Reflecting on Professor Kanagasabapathy's magnificent legacy is both a privilege and an honour. His enduring impact will serve as a guiding star for generations to come. In many ways, his name remains synonymous with the University of Jaffna for those familiar with its history since its inception. The foundation he laid for the Faculty of Science—through dedicated service, versatile skills, vast knowledge, unwavering motivation, and wisdom, stands as a lasting monument in the loving memory of Professor P. Kanagasabapathy.

Mr. Kathirithamby Sivanandan (1st batch),
Former Senior Lecturer at West London College and
Kensington College of Business, UK



Emeritus Professor Kanthia Kunaratnam:

A brilliant academic, an outstanding Scientist and an exceptional Administrator

Professor Kanthia Kunaratnam, one of the Pioneers of this University, dedicated more than four decades of service across three universities in Sri Lanka. At the University of Jaffna, he played pivotal roles, serving as the founding Head of the Departments of Physics and Computer Science, Dean of the Faculty of Science, and Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Background of Education and Academic Accomplishments

He was born in the village of Erlalai on 20 April 1934 as the youngest child in a family of six children and had his school education at Union College, Tellippalai. He used to come first in the class on most occasions and won class prizes in many subjects and some school prizes like best student in Mathematics and Science and prize for Art. He entered the Faculty of Science, University of Ceylon in June 1954 based on the combined University Entrance and Higher School Certificate (HSC) Examination conducted by the Government and the University of Ceylon in December 1953. He was one of the two best candidates in the country who obtained a First Division pass with distinctions in Pure and Applied Mathematics in that Examination.

Mr. Kunaratnam was selected to pursue both special courses in Physics and Mathematics based on his excellent performance in his first-year examination but he opted to follow a specialisation in Physics, with Pure Mathematics as subsidiary subject. He was blessed to learn Physics and Mathematics under eminent senior academics like Professors Mailvaganam, Appapillai, and George Dissanayake. He also pursued a course of lectures in 'Mathematical Methods for Scientists and Engineers' which was outside his curriculum and was attended by some Engineering students including late Professor A. Thurairajah. The course on electromagnetic theory and mathematical methods which was delivered by an American Visiting Lecturer Dr. Leo Baggerly proved

to be of immense value to him during his postgraduate studies at Imperial College, University of London. After being a brilliant undergraduate, Mr. Kunaratnam graduated with a First Class Honours in Physics in 1958 winning Dr. Hewavitharne Memorial Prize for Physics.

While serving as Assistant Lecturer in Physics, Mr. Kunaratnam's superiors at the University of Ceylon advised him to pursue his postgraduate training at the Imperial College, University of London as the Department of Physics, University of Ceylon had established collaboration with Nobel Laureate, Professor Blackett at the Imperial College London. Mr. Kunaratnam proceeded to London on 12 September 1960 from Colombo harbour for pursuing his postgraduate research programme at the Department of Geophysics, Imperial College, University of London under Professor J. M. Bruckshaw and Professor R. G. Mason who discovered the linear pattern of magnetic anomalies in the Northeast Pacific. Mr. Kunaratnam reached there after two weeks of ship journey and commenced his studies in October 1960. Within three months at Imperial College, he was successful in writing his first computer program for power spectral analysis in a combined machine and auto code language for the Ferranti Mercury computer after reading books on computer programming and numerical methods for computers. His supervisors were delighted by his speedy and accurate work. In all possible cases, he obtained satisfactory solutions in a matter of seconds and his supervisor told him once that he took several days to obtain one solution by trial. It should be noted that the storage capacity and speed of the computers at that time were two or three orders of magnitude lower than the same of modern computers. High level languages were not fully developed and computers of different makes used different machine languages or auto codes.

In 1963, Kunaratnam was awarded a PhD from the University of London as well as the DIC from Imperial College. His PhD thesis projected him as an outstanding Geoscientist in the world as it formed the starting point for a number of other researchers including Professor Fred Vine who was one of the authors of the groundbreaking paper in Nature and his hypothesis is one of the main pillars of Plate Tectonics, a global theory of the Earth. In fact, Dr. Kunaratnam gave his draft copy of the thesis to Fred Vine who was at University of Cambridge as a PhD student in 1962. The eminent Professor Fred Vine always praised Dr. Kunaratnam's work and never failed to mention the importance of Dr. Kunaratnam's computer programs for his groundbreaking paper. He had been referred to by Professor Fred Vine as a 'really brilliant Mathematician' instead of Physicist. Many of his research articles on the interpretation of magnetic anomalies and on spatial and time variations of geometric fields have appeared in international journals. One of his papers is still used in teaching and research by some institutions and referred to as Bruckshaw-Kunaratnam characteristic curves.

Career Path and Professional Achievements

Soon after obtaining his Bachelors Honours degree, Mr. Kunaratnam was appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in Physics at the University of Ceylon in 1958. On his return to Ceylon in 1964 as a PhD holder, Dr. Kunaratnam was posted to the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya where he served as a Senior Lecturer for five years. Then he got transferred to the University of Ceylon, Colombo in 1969 where he served until March 1975. In April 1975, Dr. Kunaratnam was appointed as the first Professor and Head of the Department of Physics in the newly established Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka and was entrusted with the task of organising and developing the Department of Physics, University of Jaffna. He was one of the pioneer academics of this University. He worked with vigour and organised the department well. He established a well-equipped mechanical workshop in the department which catered the needs of the entire university.

Professor Kunaratnam served as the Dean of the Faculty of Science from January 1977 to May 1978 and January 1984 to November 1988. Under his guidance the Faculty developed rapidly.

Based on confidence in Professor Kunaratnam's administrative capability and his track record in academics and research, as well as the recommendation of the Council, Her Excellency, the then President, appointed him as the Vice Chancellor of the University for three years starting in April 1994. He served as Vice Chancellor during a critical period in the University's history, marked by the unrest and political instability in the region.

Contribution to Science Education

Professor Kunaratnam has always been admired by his students as a good and dedicated teacher. I am proud to have been one of his students. He was sincere and methodical in whatever he taught. These qualities had an impact on his students. For more than four decades, Professor Kunaratnam trained hundreds of Physics graduates, many of whom are holding high positions in Universities, Research Institutions and Government Departments in Sri Lanka and abroad.

During his first term as Dean of the Faculty of Science, he resigned the post after 17 months merely to contribute for introducing the specialisation in Physics for undergraduates offering Physics as their core subject. As a person well-trained in the use of computers for analysing geomagnetic data, Professor Kunaratnam showed a keen interest in developing computing in this University and served as founder Head of the Department of Computer Science.

Contribution to Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

While he was serving as Assistant Lecturer in Physics, he interacted with a team from the Canadian Geophysical Survey which carried out an aeromagnetic survey of Sri Lanka in 1958. He was successful in interpreting their data and impressed the team headed by Dr Hood as well as his senior colleagues, Professors Appapillai and Mailvaganam. Later he became interested in time variations of the earth's magnetic field. Soon after, he made continuous records of the variations of the horizontal component of the earth's magnetic field in Colombo using an electromechanical calculator and jointly presented two papers, one in 1959 and the other in 1960 at the annual sessions of the Ceylon Association for Advancement of Science. The papers were concerned with the solar, lunar and seasonal effects on the magnetic field

variations. This was his first exposure to research in Sri Lanka.

One year after he left Imperial College with a PhD degree, one of his supervisors Professor Mason wrote to him as follows: 'In any case your work ought to be published. We have had several enquiries about your programs and it is a pity for them to be made use of without you receiving the proper credit' while the other supervisor Prof Bruckshaw too wrote him as follows: 'I think it would be excellent if you were to write up some more of your PhD work for publication. There is no doubt that the use of computers is increasing in this sort of work and there is no harm in indicating that you and this department did some of the early work'.

Professor Kunaratnam visited various prestigious universities / research institutions in the UK, Italy, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Yugoslavia and USA by winning prestigious awards and fellowships such as Commonwealth Universities Academic Staff Fellowship, UK, Associateship of the ICTP, Italy and the Developing Country Fellowship of the Royal Society of London, UK for collaborative research/ presenting papers.

Professor Kunaratnam also took keen interest in encouraging local research. He carried out extensive research in alternate energy resources. During his retirement period, the department managed to establish a well-equipped best solar cell research laboratory in the country by winning research grants worth of 30 million rupees from National and International funding agencies.

Contribution to Development of Department / Faculty/University/Country

Soon after the submission of his doctorate thesis, he had been asked by one of his supervisors, Professor Mason, whether he had to really go back to Ceylon and told that they would be glad to keep him at Imperial College as long as he liked. But he replied to his supervisor that he wanted to serve the country and

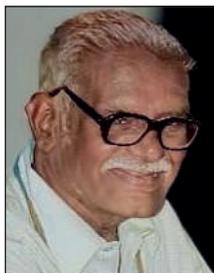
would like to return to Ceylon as early as possible. The outstanding scientist later sacrificed his research career as he had always contributed to the development of new departments or departments that were grossly understaffed. There was neither time nor facilities to carry out research or write papers.

He was an active member of the Campus Board, the Senate and the Council for several years from the inception of the University and was also a member of several sub committees of these bodies. He was also a member of the Standing Committee of the UGC on Physical Science (1983-93) and on University Staff Service (1985-93). Professor Kunaratnam also served as a member in several national committees.

In October 1995, when there was a mass exodus of the entire population of Jaffna and people were trekking their way to Vadamadchi, Thenmaradchi and Vanni as refugees, Professor Kunaratnam acted swiftly in his capacity as the Vice Chancellor to safeguard the interests and welfare of the staff and students of the University. He toiled hard and ensured that the University remained functioning and that all the staff members in the University were paid their salary on time every month. Although the situation was tense and not conducive for academic activities, Professor Kunaratnam, having understood the desperate plight of the final year students who were displaced at the time when they were about to sit their final examinations, made arrangements to conduct the final examinations in Arts, Science and Medicine at Chavakachcheri, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya to enable the final year students to complete their degree programmes without further delay.

There are events in every life that test one's courage, commitment and resolve. Professor Kunaratnam rose to his challenge with exemplary dignity and strength during the good and bad times. His integrity as an academic leader and his relentless drive set a standard that should be an example to all of us.

Professor Punniamoorthy Ravirajan
Dean of the Faculty of Science and
Senior Professor of Physics, University of Jaffna



Professor V.K. Ganesalingam: An Academic Icon

Background of Education and Academic Accomplishments

Professor V.K. Ganesalingam was a distinguished scholar who began his academic journey with a BSc Special in Zoology from the Colombo Campus of the University of Ceylon in 1962. His quest for knowledge led him to the University of Hawaii, where he completed his MSc in 1965. He then proceeded to University College London (UCL) of the University of London, where he earned his PhD in 1969 under the guidance of Dr. R. C. Fisher. His academic journey was marked by excellence and dedication, setting the foundation for his illustrious career in Zoology.

Professional Achievements

Professor Ganesalingam joined the Jaffna Campus of the University of Ceylon as the founding Professor and Head of the Zoology Department in 1975. Over the years, he held numerous prestigious academic and administrative positions, including serving as the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna. His leadership and vision played a crucial role in shaping the academic landscape of the University of Jaffna, making significant contributions to its growth and development.

Contribution to Science Education/Teaching

Professor Ganesalingam was an exemplary teacher known for his meticulous preparation and delivery of lectures. His teaching methods were innovative and engaging, earning him widespread acclaim from his students. Specializing in entomology with a focus on pest control, he brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his students. His dedication to teaching was evident in his efforts to ensure that students could complete their degree programs on time, even under challenging conditions such as the economic blockade and absence of electricity in northern Sri Lanka during the early 1990s.

Contribution to Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

As a researcher, Professor Ganesalingam made significant contributions to the field of Zoology. His research was characterized by novelty and innovation, particularly in the area of pest control. He

published numerous books and articles that reflected his scholarly achievements. Under his guidance, the Zoology department at the University of Jaffna became one of the most prolific departments in the university. His research not only advanced scientific knowledge but also had practical applications in addressing real-world problems.

Contribution to the Development of Department/Faculty/University/Country

Professor Ganesalingam played a pivotal role in the development of the Zoology department, the Faculty of Science, and the University of Jaffna as a whole. His leadership and vision transformed the department into a center of excellence. Beyond the university, his contributions to the field of science education in Sri Lanka were immense. He was a founding member and the first secretary of the Jaffna Science Association (JSA), where he played a key role in promoting science education in schools and the broader community.

Recognised Community Outreach Activities

Professor Ganesalingam was deeply committed to community service and humanitarian work. As the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, he risked his own safety to provide medical aid to victims of aerial bombardment and artillery shelling in war-affected areas. He also advocated for the rights and well-being of Sri Lankan Tamils in international forums. His dedication to community service extended to his students, whom he supported and motivated, even under the most challenging circumstances.

Professor V.K. Ganesalingam's legacy is one of profound dedication to education, research, and community service. His contributions to the University of Jaffna, the field of Zoology, and the broader scientific community are deeply cherished. He will be remembered as a compassionate teacher, an innovative researcher, and a courageous humanitarian who made a lasting impact on countless lives. His life's work embodies the essence of the biblical verse he cherished: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). The academic and scientific community of Jaffna University will forever honor his memory and contributions.

Professor Sinnathamby Noble Surendran
Senior Professor of Zoology, University of Jaffna



Late Emeritus Professors Sivapathasundaram Mageswaran & Rajeswary Mageswaran: Great Souls of Dedication and Sacrifice

Professor Sivapathasundaram Mageswaran, one of the pioneers of this University, was the founding Head of the Department of Chemistry. He also served as the Dean of the Faculty of Science in addition to his academic career as Senior Lecturer followed by Professor and Senior Professor of Chemistry. He left us on 2 February 1998, at the age of 55, while in service.

Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran, the beloved wife of Professor Mageswaran and fondly known as 'Miss' to her students and within the University community, also served at the University in different capacities such as Head of the Department of Chemistry and Rector of Vavuniya Campus in addition to her academic career as Lecturer followed by Senior Lecturer, Professor and Senior Professor of Inorganic Chemistry before retirement. She passed away on 17 April 2022 in London, at the age of 77, after 34 years of service and twelve years of retired life.

Background of Education and Academic Accomplishments

Professor Mageswaran was born in Kokuvil on 28 March 1942 as the eldest child in a family of eight children and had his school education at the Kokuvil Hindu College. His classmates remember him as an exceptionally gifted all-round student. He played cricket and football. He was a talented spinner and had a big fan group for his batting. He entered the then University of Sri Lanka, Colombo in 1962, pursued the special degree course in

Chemistry and was awarded a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Chemistry in 1966. Soon after graduation, he joined the then University of Ceylon, Peradeniya as an Assistant Lecturer and left for the UK in 1968 for postgraduate studies. Before leaving for the UK, Professor Mageswaran got registered to be

married to Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran, the love of his life. He completed his MSc and PhD degrees at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom in 1969 and 1972 respectively. He was awarded a travel scholarship by the Nuffield Foundation (1978-1979) and a Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship (1987-1988) to carry out research work on crown ethers and enzyme models at the University of Liverpool, UK.

Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran (nee Rajeswary Subramaniam) was born on 22 June 1945 in Karanavai North as the second child and the only girl child in a family of four children and had her school education at the Udupidy American Mission College and then at the Hartley College, Point Pedro followed by her undergraduate education at the then University of Ceylon, Peradeniya. She launched her distinguished academic journey with a BScHons Degree in Chemistry from the said university in 1968 followed by a PhD in Organometallic Chemistry from the University of Sheffield, UK in 1972. She possessed several postdoctoral experiences at the Universities of Liverpool (1978-1979, 1984, 1995-1996) and Oxford (2004) in the United Kingdom and University College, Dublin (1988, 1990) in the Republic of Ireland.

Career Path and Professional Achievements

After serving at the then University of Ceylon, Peradeniya from 1966 - 1975, Professor Mageswaran joined the Faculty of Science of University of Jaffna as one of its pioneers on 19 May 1975 and served there until his untimely demise on 2 February 1998. He joined the newly established University of Jaffna as founding Head of Department of Chemistry in 1975, and was promoted to Professor of Chemistry in 1979 and Senior Professor of Chemistry subsequently in recognition of his contributions to the academic, Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

administrative and research activities at the University. Following his untimely demise on 2 February 1998, the University of Jaffna honoured him with an Honorary Doctor of Science degree and Emeritus Professorship posthumously at the Convocation held on 4 October 1998. He was the founding Head of Department of Chemistry and had dedicated almost 15 years of his service as the Head of Department of Chemistry. Further, he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Science for two consecutive terms (March 1991 - October 1996) during the most difficult periods in the history of the university and guided the faculty with resolve, tact and caution. Also, he functioned as an elected member to the University Council and the Management Committee of the then Vavuniya Campus and served on several selection boards and committees.

While undertaking the above responsibilities, he left an indelible mark as a person who worked on principles and never gave up his principles. His principles were not founded merely on the regulations or by-laws, but by the higher philosophies that guided the development of those laws and regulations. Also, he was well versed on the rules, regulations, norms, procedures and traditions and ensured that any ambiguity in the interpretation of regulations did not lead to dilution of standards. Though he was committed to justice, he always approached the problems of the students and the staff with sympathy. Professor Mageswaran was a man of unblemished record of integrity. He fought to ensure that the University of Jaffna maintained high standards in education and administration although, at times, this earned him the annoyance of many.

Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran served at the Peradeniya Campus of the then University of Sri Lanka for eight years (1968-1976) before joining the newly established University of Jaffna as a Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry on 1 April 1976 to assist in developing the institution. Subsequently, she was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1980, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry in 1986 and Senior Professor

of Inorganic Chemistry in 1993 in recognition of her contributions to the academic, administrative and research activities at the University. She retired from the University service in 2010, and the University of Jaffna honoured her with an Honorary Doctor of Science degree and Emeritus Professorship at the Convocation held on 6 October 2011. As an able academic administrator, Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran served as the Head of the Department of Chemistry of University of Jaffna for more than ten years during the most challenging period in the Northern Sri Lanka and Rector of the then Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna for three years effective from 2003. Her resourceful contributions to the uplifting of the Department of Chemistry and the then Vavuniya Campus will be remembered forever.

Contribution to Science Education

Professor Mageswaran loved the subject Chemistry and taught it with drive and passion. He never teaches a topic as a collection of facts and information. He goes to the fundamental questions that led to the development of the said topic, then teaches its logical growth with sound reasoning and finally makes the learners appreciate the philosophy behind it. Whether it was a topic from his own field of specialization or whether it was a new topic he was covering because of the lack of staff, he taught them at the same standard and made them equally enriching. Science was no longer a mystery in his class. At the examinations, his questions were fair and promoted deep learning, ensuring the achievement belonged to the learner. The external examiners in the UK constantly praised him for maintaining a very high standard even during a period of colossal difficulties caused by the unsettled condition prevailed in the region. He had a very good memory power and remembered the details of all the students in the faculty: their family conditions, performance at examinations, attendance at classes, their interest in extra-curricular activities, etc. While going through the answer scripts of students and by looking at the index number, he could recall how that student had performed in other papers and in

the past examinations. It was painful to him when he saw a good student scoring lower marks or a weak student failing repeatedly. Sometimes students cut their classes and wander around the Jaffna town. If Professor Mageswaran saw them, he would remind them about their lecture at that time and question them as to why they were outside. Whenever the students face any problem in their studies or personal life, he was there to listen. He gave them his time and inspiration generously.

In the first encounter with Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran, students perceived her as a calm and soft-spoken lady with her trademark spectacles. However, they soon discovered her friendly nature and caring spirit behind the 'no-nonsense' exterior. She was passionate about teaching and diligently prepared her students for their future endeavors. While serving as the Rector of the then Vavuniya Campus, she voluntarily delivered lectures to the BScHons degree students of the Department of Chemistry during weekends and contributed to the evaluation process as well. Although her specialization was in inorganic chemistry, she was knowledgeable across the entire spectrum of chemistry. She taught physical chemistry whenever there was a shortage of specialized staff without complaining about the additional workload. Furthermore, she made significant contributions to publications such as "Chemistry of Organometallic Compounds", "Physical and Theoretical Chemistry", and "Chemistry of Non-aqueous Solvents" for the Degree of Bachelor of Science at the Open University of Sri Lanka.

The couple upheld the highest academic standards in their teaching and evaluation throughout their careers, producing graduates of exceptional quality. Their skillful teaching, enduring commitment to students, and selfless devotion to providing quality education have greatly contributed to our current success. Words cannot fully convey our gratitude.

Beyond their academic and administrative roles at the University of Jaffna, they made significant

contributions to the development of science and education in the Northern region through their involvement with the Jaffna Science Association and the Field Work Centre in Thondaimanaru. They were also active members of the Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon. Professor Mageswaran had served in the Academic Council of the Institute of Fundamental Studies and Research & Publication Committee of the Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority (NARESA). Additionally, the couple contributed to national examinations, such as the GCE(A/L) Chemistry examination, by serving on the question paper setting panels and as chief examiners for answer script marking. The staff at the Department of Examinations in Battaramulla still speak highly of their trustworthiness and dedication to their responsibilities.

The couple were exceptionally intelligent, hardworking, and outstanding professionals with impeccable records of integrity. They dedicated their entire lives to the betterment and welfare of their students at the University of Jaffna. The Department of Chemistry was like a second home to them, where they cared for hundreds of students both professionally and personally, touching their hearts in ways that words cannot fully capture.

During the challenging periods in the history of Northern Sri Lanka, the couple tirelessly continued their service as educators, dedicating themselves to helping young students to find their lifelines despite sacrificing their own comfort, prestige, security and much more while many intellectuals left the country for their benefits. If they also had left the country like other intellectuals, the career aspirations of many students could have been jeopardized, and they might have never achieved their goals of pursuing higher studies and dream jobs. Despite the difficult circumstances, they encouraged students to seek overseas postgraduate training to bring out their full potential and guided them to obtain fully funded scholarships to support their research studies. Many undergraduates who chose Chemistry as their field of

specialization advanced in their careers, both in Sri Lanka and abroad, thanks to the unwavering support and guidance of this remarkable couple.

Contribution to Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

Professor Mageswaran and Rajeswary Mageswaran were exceptionally intelligent and research-focused persons. Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran's research interests were on analytical chemistry, organometallic chemistry, coordination chemistry and theoretical inorganic chemistry, while Professor Mageswaran concentrated on natural products chemistry, synthetic organic chemistry and physical organic chemistry. They carried out pioneering research in the fields that are vital to the Northern part of the country, such as analysis of groundwater quality and chemistry of natural constituents from Palmyrah and seaweeds, and disseminated the findings through scholarly publications. They received research grants, and supervised many students in their postgraduate research. However, their research activities faced significant challenges after the mid-1990s due to the unstable conditions in the region and Sri Lankan government restrictions on the transport of chemicals.

Contribution to Development of Department / Faculty/University/Country

The academic activities of University of Jaffna commenced in the mid-1970s and Professor Mageswaran was the youngest among the pioneers and proved to be the most enthusiastic and energetic among the finest of them. He played a pivotal role in shaping this institution into a strong academic entity. As the founding Head of the Department of Chemistry, he worked tirelessly to produce graduates of outstanding quality. Initially, the department was located in the undergraduate section of the Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai and had to operate with very limited resources. Despite these constraints, Professor

Mageswaran overcame the challenges through his diligent effort and dedication.

It is truly remarkable how Professor Mageswaran oversaw the construction of the Chemistry building at the Thirunelvely premises of the University while managing all his regular duties. He meticulously planned every detail of the building and its fixtures, ensuring that everything was executed according to his vision. On one occasion, while observing from a distant building, he noticed a discrepancy in the concrete mix ratios. Without hesitation, he stopped the work to correct the issue. Each part of this impressive building stands as a testament to the Herculean effort he invested. In honour of his contributions, the University named the building the Mageswaran Block following his passing in 1998.

Professor Rajeswary Mageswaran was a capable and steadfast administrator. Like her husband, she was well-versed in governing rules and regulations, and she ensured that ambiguity had not compromise standards. She served as the Head of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Jaffna for over a decade during the most challenging period in Northern Sri Lanka, and as Rector of the Vavuniya Campus from 2003 to 2006. Her invaluable contributions to elevating the Department of Chemistry and the Vavuniya Campus will always be remembered.

Together, the couple played a crucial role in shaping the university into a robust academic institution. The Department of Chemistry with its highly qualified staff, the state-of-the-art Mageswaran Block, and advanced teaching and research facilities stands as a testament to the strong foundation they laid through their unwavering commitment. They found fulfillment in serving others and served as exemplary models of dedication, intelligence, and sacrifice. The University community is truly fortunate to have witnessed such a life of extraordinary service.

Professor Meena Senthilnathanan,
Professor of Chemistry, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka



Mrs. Navamany Selvarajah: A Stalwart of Limnology and Zoology

Background of Education and Academic Accomplishments

Mrs. Navamany Selvarajah was an eminent limnologist whose scholarly journey began with her family's prominent legacy in the community. Her mother, Ponnammah Arulampalam, was a notable leader, and her husband, the late Mr. Selvarajah, was an outstanding sports personality. Mrs. Selvarajah's academic career took root when she was recruited to the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka from the Undergraduate Department of Jaffna College during the inception of the Department of Zoology in Vaddukoddi. She quickly established herself as a pioneer of the Faculty of Science at the University of Jaffna, playing a crucial role in its early development.

Professional Achievements

Mrs. Selvarajah's professional journey was marked by significant achievements in the field of limnology and general zoology. She ascended to the position of Associate Professor in Zoology, where she was renowned for her dedication and expertise. Her work included extensive studies on the ponds in Jaffna, and she published numerous articles in reputed scientific journals. Her collaboration with the late eminent limnologist Professor C.H. Fernando further highlighted her professional prowess. Despite limited research facilities, she maintained a robust research agenda, supervising many postgraduate degrees and contributing significantly to the scientific community.

Contribution to Science Education/Teaching

As an educator, Mrs. Selvarajah was exceptional. Her command of limnology and general zoology made her a sought-after teacher and advisor. She was known for her dedication, modesty, and integrity, often choosing to share office space rather than occupy a private office. Her teaching methods and mentorship left a lasting impact on her students. Many, including myself, initiated their research careers under her guidance. She maintained a connection with her students even after retirement, a testament to her enduring commitment to education.

Contribution to Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

Mrs. Selvarajah's research contributions were significant, particularly in the field of limnology. Her studies on the ponds of Jaffna were widely recognized,

and her publications in scientific journals added valuable knowledge to the field. She diligently pursued her research interests despite facing infrastructural challenges. Her ability to secure collaborations with prominent scientists, like Professor C.H. Fernando, and to supervise numerous postgraduate degrees, underscored her dedication to research and knowledge dissemination.

Contribution to the Development of Department/Faculty/University/Country

Mrs. Selvarajah played a vital role in the development of the Department of Zoology at the University of Jaffna. As one of the most senior members of the department, she contributed significantly to its growth and reputation. Her efforts in establishing a strong foundation for the Faculty of Science were instrumental during the early years of the university. Her commitment extended beyond her immediate academic environment, as she played a part in the broader development of higher education and research in the region.

Recognised Community Outreach Activities

In addition to her academic and research contributions, Mrs. Selvarajah was known for her community outreach activities. Her passion for writing stories and poems, including the publication of "A Cocktail in English," showcased her multifaceted talents and her desire to engage with the broader community. Her legacy in the limnologic fraternity and the Jaffna academic community is remembered with great respect and affection. Mrs. Selvarajah's integrity, honesty, and dedication to her students and colleagues were exemplary, leaving a lasting impact that will be remembered for generations.

Mrs. Navamany Selvarajah's legacy as a limnologist, educator, and pioneer of the Faculty of Science at the University of Jaffna is profound. Her contributions to science education, research, and community outreach have left an indelible mark on the academic community. Mrs. Selvarajah's modesty, dedication, and integrity serve as an enduring inspiration, ensuring that her contributions to limnology and the Department of Zoology will be remembered forever.

Professor Sinnathamby Noble Surendran

Senior Professor of Zoology, University of Jaffna



Rev. Fr. Dr. Guy Fontgalland Rajendram: A Legendary Entomologist

Background of Education and Academic Accomplishments

Rev. Fr. Dr. Guy Fontgalland Rajendram's academic journey is a testament to his dedication and intellectual prowess. He began his education at St. Michael's College in Batticaloa. He pursued higher education at Fordham University in New York, earning an MSc degree in Biology in 1954. Driven by a passion for entomology, he later attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he obtained his PhD in Entomology in 1974. In addition to his scientific studies, Fr. Rajendram also specialized in Philosophy, showcasing his diverse academic interests and intellectual depth.

Professional Achievements

Fr. Rajendram joined the Department of Zoology at the University of Jaffna on July 7, 1979, as a Lecturer and quickly rose through the ranks, becoming an Associate Professor on January 21, 1989. His expertise and dedication to the field of entomology earned him a reputation as a leading figure in his discipline. He was instrumental in advancing the department's academic standards and research output. His tenure at the University of Jaffna was marked by numerous professional accomplishments, including significant research collaborations and securing prestigious research grants.

Significant Contribution to Science Education/Teaching

As an educator, Fr. Rajendram was renowned for his discipline, punctuality, and dedication. He taught various aspects of entomology alongside general zoology to both undergraduate and honors students. His command of the English language and effective teaching methods made him a role model for many

aspiring university academics. His lectures were meticulously prepared and delivered, earning him the admiration and respect of his students and colleagues alike. Fr. Rajendram's impact on his students extended beyond the classroom, as he inspired many to pursue careers in science and academia.

Significant Contribution to Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

Fr. Rajendram was a leading researcher in entomology, focusing on insect physiology, the biological control of insects, and mosquito studies. His collaborative efforts with international scientists and successful acquisition of research grants from the National Science Council of Sri Lanka and the Natural Resources, Energy, and Science Authority of Sri Lanka highlighted his research capabilities. He supervised numerous MSc and MPhil students, guiding their research and fostering a culture of scientific inquiry within the Department of Zoology. His research was widely published in reputable journals, contributing significantly to the body of knowledge in entomology.

Significant Contribution to the Development of Department/Faculty/University/Country

Fr. Rajendram played a crucial role in the development of the Department of Zoology, the Faculty of Science, and the University of Jaffna as a whole. His leadership and vision were instrumental during the turbulent period in Jaffna from 1990 to 1995. He served as a pillar of strength for both the faculty and the student community, ensuring the continuity of academic activities under challenging circumstances. In October 1995, Fr. Rajendram was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka, where he continued to make significant contributions to the academic and administrative growth of the institution.



Recognised Community Outreach Activities

Fr. Rajendram's commitment to community service was evident throughout his career. He was awarded several prestigious scholarships, including the IRRI Research Scholarship and the British Council Sabbatical Award, which facilitated his contributions to the academic community and beyond. He established a quasi-link research program with the University of Wales, Cardiff, and served as the Editor of the Vingnanam Journal of Science, published by the Faculty of Science at the University of Jaffna. His efforts in community outreach, particularly during the challenging period in Jaffna, demonstrated his

dedication to serving others and making a positive impact on society.

Rev. Fr. Dr. Guy Fontgalland Rajendram's legacy is one of academic excellence, dedicated service, and unwavering commitment to education and research. His contributions to the field of entomology, his impactful teaching, and his significant role in the development of academic institutions in Sri Lanka have left an indelible mark on the academic community. Fr. Rajendram's life and work continue to inspire and influence future generations of scholars and educators, honoring his memory and preserving his enduring legacy.

Professor Sinnathamby Noble Surendran
Senior Professor of Zoology, University of Jaffna



Dr. Karthigesu Chitravadivelu: A Dedicated Academic

Background of Education and Academic Accomplishments

Born on May 17, 1933, in Achchuveli, Dr. Karthigesu Chitravadivelu pursued his primary education at Kathirippai Subramaniya Vidhyalaya and Achchuveli Maha Vidhyalaya, and his secondary education at Hindu College, Jaffna, and Jaffna College, Vaddukottai. He earned his BSc degree from London in 1957 and later, his Master's degree, RN Dr. , and PhD in Fisheries Biology from Charles University in 1971 and 1972, respectively. Additionally, he obtained a Diploma in Education from the University of Sri Lanka in 1981, showcasing his commitment to continuous learning and educational excellence.

Professional Achievements

Dr. Chitravadivelu began his teaching career at Vaiththeswara College and Chithampara College in Jaffna, where he served from 1958 to 1973. In 1980, he joined the University of Jaffna as a Lecturer in the Department of Zoology. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1986 and later became an Associate Professor in Zoology in 1993. During his career, he also won a postdoctoral fellowship to perform research on Fisheries Biology and Culture at University College of North Wales, Bangor, UK, from 1988 to 1989.

Significant Contribution to Science Education/ Teaching

Dr. Chitravadivelu was deeply involved in teaching and administration at the University of Jaffna. He served as the Head of the Department of Zoology from 1990 to 1991 and the Head of the Department of Botany from 1992 to 1995. Beyond these roles, he was instrumental in establishing and nurturing the Centre for Development of Fisheries, where he served as the founder Coordinator, Director, and later Consultant. His efforts in creating a robust educational framework Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

significantly benefited the field of Fisheries Science and education at the university.

Significant Contribution to Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

Dr. Chitravadivelu was a prolific researcher, contributing extensively to the field of Fisheries Biology and Aquaculture. His work was recognized both nationally and internationally, leading to numerous collaborations and publications. He authored and published many books in both Tamil and English, including notable works such as "Man – A Special Animal," "Toad – A Typical Vertebrate," "Cockroach – A Typical Invertebrate," "Economic Biology," "Shrimp Culture," "Marine Fisheries – An Introduction," and "Biology of Shrimp and its Culture Techniques." His research findings were published in various national and international journals, with over 50 research articles and numerous abstracts to his name.

Significant Contribution to the Development of Department / Faculty / University / Country

Dr. Chitravadivelu's contributions to the development of the University of Jaffna were monumental. He was a pioneer in formulating the proposal to establish a Faculty of Fisheries in 1992, and although it was not immediately realized, his vision laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Centre for Development of Fisheries in 1998. His efforts were further validated when the centre was elevated to the Department of Fisheries in 2009. He supervised many postgraduate students, significantly contributing to human resource development in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

Recognized Community Outreach Activities

Dr. Chitravadivelu was deeply committed to community outreach and development. He played



a crucial role in establishing the Jaffna Science Association and was actively involved in organizing exhibitions, school science programs, and competitions. He also contributed to the Thondaimanaru Field Work Centre, where he initiated the culture of milkfish, tilapia, and prawns in the Thondaimanaru and Jaffna Lagoons. Additionally, he was a resource person in numerous local and international training workshops and served as a consultant to various national and international organizations.

Dr. Chitravadivelu's dedication to his family, his students, and his community was unwavering. His legacy continues to inspire and guide future generations in the field of Fisheries Science and education. His passing is a profound loss to the University of Jaffna and the broader academic community, but his contributions will be remembered and cherished for years to come.

Professor Sivashanthini Kuganathan
Senior Professor of Fisheries, University of Jaffna



Professor Ratnam Vigneswaran: A Legacy of Dedication and Excellence

Background of Education and Academic Accomplishments

Professor Ratnam Vigneswaran's distinguished academic journey began with his Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Mathematics from the University of Jaffna in 1982, where he graduated with Second Class Honors. In 1984, he commenced his academic career as a Temporary Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL). By 1987, he secured a permanent position as an Assistant Lecturer. His academic pursuits led him to the University of Sussex, UK, where he earned a PhD in 1991 under the British Council Technical Co-operation Training Award, defending his thesis on "Iteration Schemes for the Implementation of Implicit Runge-Kutta Methods."

Career Path and Professional Achievements

Upon returning to Sri Lanka after completing his PhD, Dr. Vigneswaran dedicated over three decades to the service of EUSL and later the University of Jaffna. At EUSL, he held several pivotal roles, including Head of the Department of Mathematics for two terms and Head of the Computer Unit for three terms. His leadership was instrumental in the development and implementation of the BScHons Degree program in Mathematics. In recognition of his contributions, he was awarded the Commonwealth Fellowship for research at the University of Sussex in 2000 and 2001.

In 2004, Dr. Vigneswaran joined the University of Jaffna, where he served as the Head of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics for two terms and played a key role in various academic initiatives, including the World Bank-funded IRQUE Project and the introduction of the BScHons in Applied Science degree program. His leadership extended to his role as Dean of the Faculty of Science and subsequently as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, where he oversaw significant developments, including the establishment of a new building for the Department of Computer Science and the Clean Energy Research Laboratory.

Contribution to Science Education

Professor Vigneswaran was deeply committed to advancing science education. He was a pivotal figure in curriculum development at EUSL, particularly in

establishing the BScHons Degree in Mathematics. His tenure at the University of Jaffna was marked by efforts to enhance the quality and relevance of undergraduate education through initiatives like the IRQUE Project and the introduction of new degree programs. As Dean of the Faculty of Science and later as Vice-Chancellor, he championed initiatives that expanded the infrastructure and resources available to students and faculty, furthering the university's mission to provide high-quality education.

Contribution to Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

Professor Vigneswaran's contributions to research were significant. He received the Commonwealth Fellowship Award for his research at the University of Sussex and presented his work at international conferences in Canada, the UK, and India. Under his leadership, the University of Jaffna organized a major international conference in 2019, attracting over four hundred researchers, including a substantial international contingent. He also played a crucial role in establishing the Clean Energy Research Laboratory at the University of Jaffna, which continues to contribute to the global body of knowledge in the field.

Contribution to Development of Department, Faculty, University, and Country

Throughout his career, Professor Vigneswaran remained deeply committed to the development of the institutions he served. At Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL), he played a pivotal role in establishing the BScHons Degree in Mathematics and overseeing the construction of a temple on the university premises. His tenure as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna was marked by significant achievements, including the construction of vital infrastructure, such as the Department of Computer Science building, funded by the World Bank. His leadership in organizing international conferences and establishing research laboratories not only enhanced the university's reputation but also contributed substantially to the advancement of science and education in Sri Lanka.

Professor Vigneswaran's contributions will continue to inspire future generations of scholars and educators, particularly in the field of Mathematics.

Professor Punniamoorthy Ravirajan

Dean of the Faculty of Science and Senior Professor of Physics, University of Jaffna



Dr. Padmini Krishnarajah: A Tribute to an inspiring personality

Dr. Padmini Krishnarajah, born on March 12, 1952, in Mayiliddy, had her schooling primarily in Kandy at K/St. Antony's Convent (1957–1963) and K/ Girls High School (1966–1970), with a brief period in Jaffna at J/ Skandavarodaya College (1964–1965). A bright student, she received a studentship to follow GSQ at the University of Peradeniya from 1972 to 1973, and subsequently earned her BSc Hons in Zoology (1973–1976) from the same university.

From 1980 to 1983, she pursued her MPhil studies on holothurians at the University of Jaffna, with her thesis titled "Studies on Ecology and Some Biology in Sri Lankan Holothurians (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea)," earning her MPhil degree in 1984. She became a probationary lecturer at the University of Jaffna in 1985, and later pursued her PhD at Annamalai University (1988–1992), with a dissertation titled "Studies on the Dorsal Bodies on the Reproductive System in *Crytozona belangeri* Deshayes (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Pulmonata)," which she completed in 1994.

I would like to share my experience and perception regarding Dr. Padmini Krishnarajah madam. I entered the Jaffna University during October 1992 and I saw her the very first time in the general laboratory of the Department of Zoology as a tall, fair lady with thick glasses and a smiling face, despite a noticeable difficulty in her right arm and leg.

But with this drawback, she delivered lectures and managed practicals very well. Her smartness reflected in every action, climbing stairs and delivering lectures at the specific place allocated in the time table irrespective of either 1st or 2nd floor. She has never taken her inability as an excuse to change the lecture halls from up to the ground floor and she made all the students treat her as a very normal person. Her strength in field work was extraordinary. I witnessed her walking amidst sandy beaches, climbing mountains and managing to get inside a boat. Anyone can admit how difficult those tasks are for a person with such a physical challenge.

Later she became my supervisor for my MPhil studies which eventually extended to PhD. She has opened up the fascinating world of amphibians and

reptiles to me and I had an opportunity to work closely with her. I have seen her having daily intake of a handful of pills to work as a normal person overcoming her sufferings. I learned that she had recovered from a minor stroke during childbirth which affected both her right arm and leg. Then she adapted to do everything with her left arm including writing which was really amazing which showed her willpower and courage.

Besides, she was an active research scholar, publishing a number of research abstracts and articles in conferences and reputed journals respectively. She was a member of echinoderm specialist group in Sri Lanka and UK; member of a research advisory board in the USA; received the Man Woman of the year award in 1997 of USA and life member and editor of prestigious scientific committees and journals.

I did my postgraduate studies during the period of political strife in Jaffna (2001 – 2005) with the terror of landmines and pulses of unrests. Mobile phones were rare; and the telephone connections available only in a few shops. During a "Harthal" day, an owner of a communication center where we used to go to make calls, came and informed me that a person from Colombo made an urgent call to come there. I went immediately, her husband Mr. Krishnarajah informed me that his wife Dr. Padmini madam was not well and he was anxious to know about her, who was residing with her sister at Kantharodai. Without hesitation despite the curfew-like condition, I rushed to her place with my father and found her unconscious. On the same night, her sister took her to Colombo in a bus with still unconscious state and that was the last time I saw her in Jaffna.

Dr. Padmini Krishnarajah inspired me in many ways. She was the first person to initiate PhD studies in the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, unfortunately she was no more when the degree was awarded. With all these intellectual brilliances, Padmini madam would have lived some more years if not her health condition worsened. The destiny crossed her path to take her away on 11th December, 2009. I remain grateful for the opportunity she provided me to pursue in the field of Herpetology and for my progress. She will always be in my memory as an inspiring figure.

Dr. (Mrs.) Abyerami Sivaruban

Senior Lecturer in Zoology, University of Jaffna

Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna



Dr. Arumathurai Sivapalan

Background - Education and Academic Accomplishments

Dr. Arumathurai Sivapalan, a distinguished academic and researcher, was born on April 15, 1948, in Suthumalai North, Manipay, to Mr. Arumathurai and Mrs. Manonmani. He completed his undergraduate Honours degree in Botany from the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, Kandy, Sri Lanka, in 1973. He then pursued his PhD in Plant Pathology at the Faculty of Science, University of London, United Kingdom, graduating in 1981. His doctoral research on the “Effects of Water on the Development of Powdery Mildews” was supervised by Dr. B.E.J. Wheeler and Professor R.K.S. Wood, marking a significant contribution to plant pathology.

Professional Achievements

Dr. Sivapalan began his academic career as the first Head of the Department of Botany at the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, from 1974 to 1977. Upon completing his PhD, he returned to the University of Jaffna in 1981 as a Senior Lecturer (Grade II) and served until 1985. Due to the ethnic turmoil and uncertainties in Sri Lanka, he moved to the University of Guyana, South America, where he lectured from 1985 to 1988. He later settled in Melbourne, Australia, where he worked as a research scientist in the agriculture sector. In 1992, he joined the Brunei Agricultural Research Centre, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam, until his diagnosis with lymphoma in 1997 prompted his return to Melbourne. Despite his illness, he continued contributing to the field as an advisory scientist in Australian Quarantine Service - Phyto Disease Control Section at Melbourne airport until 2013.

Contributions to Science Education, Teaching, Research, and Dissemination of Knowledge

Dr. Sivapalan was renowned for his exceptional teaching skills, particularly in Plant Pathology

and Botany, where he inspired and motivated his students. His research work laid a strong foundation for future scientific activities at the Department of Botany, University of Jaffna. He authored nearly ten publications in collaboration with eminent researchers locally and internationally, such as Dr. Chithravadivel, Professor Theivendirarajah, and Dr. U. Braun. His research topics included food and feeding habits of *Siganus lineatus*, the agarophyte *Gracilaria edulis*, and the effects of fungicides on downy mildew disease of grapevine caused by *Plasmopara viticola*.

Contribution to the Development of the Department, Faculty and University

Dr. Sivapalan played a crucial role in developing the Department of Botany at the University of Jaffna, particularly in plant pathology research. He worked closely with the Thirunelveli Agricultural Farm to prevent plant disease epidemics, advising on effective eradication methods. His efforts significantly benefited the local population by preventing economic losses. His innovative thinking, visionary spirit, and patient leadership were instrumental in advancing the department’s research capabilities despite limited resources.

Recognized Community Outreach Activities

Throughout his career, Dr. Sivapalan was committed to community outreach and service. After migrating to Melbourne, he contributed to the agricultural sector and later to the Phyto Disease Control Section at Melbourne Airport. His dedication extended to mentoring high school students, guiding them towards successful academic and career paths. His students and colleagues remember him fondly for his academic excellence, innovative teaching methods, and unwavering commitment to education and research. Dr. Sivapalan’s legacy continues to inspire and influence the scientific community, and his contributions are deeply appreciated by all who had the privilege of learning from and working with him.

Dr. Punithavathy Ganeshwaran (nee) Perinpanayagam, (UOJ Alumnus 1981-84),
Retired Lead Scientist for Haematology & Transfusion Departments, Berkshire and Surrey
Laboratory manager for UK Health Security Agency



Life and Legacy of Late Professor Jacob Balan Selliah

Introduction:

It is a profound privilege and honour to commemorate a remarkable life that has illuminated the paths of thousands of students across Sri Lanka, the USA, and Canada for over half a century with unwavering humility, dedication, and devotion. Undoubtedly, Professor J. B. Selliah stands out as one of the most exceptional educators in Mathematics and Statistics. Every student from the inaugural batch can attest to the transformation of their Statistics course with the arrival of Dr. Balan Selliah. Before his appointment as the head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the course lacked engaging instruction. Dr. Balan Selliah revitalised the subject, imbuing it with interest and meaning. This article celebrates an extraordinary individual who has profoundly impacted thousands of students, empowering them to achieve their fullest potential.

Educational Background and Achievements:

Jacob Balan Selliah was born on 15th June 1934 as the third child of Mr. and Mrs. K. A. Selliah. He had five siblings and enjoyed a happy childhood. His father was the vice-principal of the renowned Jaffna College- one of the most famous schools in the whole of Ceylon, and later became its principal. He was also a well-known Physics teacher, a disciplinarian and an outstanding sportsman. Balan Selliah attended his father's college and proved to be a great son of a great father. Young Balan excelled in all his subjects, especially Mathematics and Science, consistently earning the highest grades. In sports, he also made his mark like his father. He played Tennis, Table Tennis, Football, and Cricket in school and had the privilege of captaining the school cricket team.

In 1953, he entered the University College of Ceylon, Colombo to pursue a Special Degree in Bachelor of Science. He was fortunate to study under Professor Eliyaser, the most distinguished and internationally acclaimed mathematician produced by Sri Lanka. Balan Selliah participated in both sports and athletics at the university, winning colours for Table

Tennis, Tennis, and Football. He also played cricket at the university. In 1956, he graduated with a First-Class Honours degree in Mathematics.

After a short career in the Income Tax Department, he joined Jaffna College as a mathematics teacher. While teaching at Jaffna College, he won a scholarship to conduct research at Stanford University in 1960. After three years, he earned his PhD in Statistics and returned to his alma mater, Jaffna College. He strengthened the Department of Mathematics of the undergraduate department of Jaffna College, which was preparing students from all over Ceylon for the BSc (Maths) degree from London University.

In 1973, he was granted sabbatical leave and departed for the USA and Canada. From 1973 to March 1975, he worked as a lecturer at the University of Toronto. During this period, he collaborated with Professor Olkin of Stanford University and published two research papers. While he was on his sabbatical leave, Jaffna College was taken over by the Government of Sri Lanka in 1974 to be used as one of the campuses of the newly formed Jaffna Campus.

This was a significant setback for the entire academic community of Jaffna College, which had upheld a Christian cultural tradition for well over a century.

However the University of Sri Lanka extended an invitation to Dr. Balan Selliah to join the faculty of Jaffna Campus as it was absorbing all the staff at the undergraduate department into the new campus. Dr. Balan Selliah did not bear any ill will or grudge and accepted the offer with magnanimity and agreed to serve the newly formed university. Recognising his expertise and his up-to-date knowledge in Statistics, Jaffna Campus decided to divide the Department of Mathematics and Statistics into two departments and form a separate department for Statistics and invited Dr. J.B. Selliah to be the head of the newly formed department.

Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

Contribution to Jaffna Campus/ University of Jaffna:

Upon joining the faculty as the Head of the Department, he undertook a comprehensive update of the Statistics syllabus. His recent experiences at the University of Toronto and Stanford University provided him with valuable insights into how advanced statistical knowledge was revolutionizing the Investment Banking and Insurance sectors in the USA and the West. He integrated numerous units from the Institute of Statisticians and the Institute of Actuaries into the Mathematics/Statistics degree programme at Jaffna Campus, aligning it with international standards. This initiative enabled many graduates from the University of Jaffna to receive subject or unit-wise exemptions from these prestigious institutions upon graduation.

He collaborated closely with Professor P. Kanagasabapathy to modernize the Mathematics curriculum for the second and third years and to organise final year projects for Special Degree students in Statistics. Their complementary skills fostered a cooperative rather than competitive environment, which was instrumental in the smooth development of the Science Faculty. Their mutual respect and collaboration were key factors in the Science Faculty's successful evolution.

During his tenure as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor K. Indrapala was dedicated to strengthening the Department of Economics. For years, the Economics Departments across the country struggled to have their lecturers attain doctoral qualifications from foreign universities. These foreign institutions required advanced knowledge in Mathematics and Statistics, a challenge for lecturers from non-mathematical backgrounds who found it difficult to adapt to these rigorous demands. Professor Indrapala and Dr. Balan Selliah collaboratively introduced a new degree program in Economics and Econometrics with Statistics. Given the students' strong foundation in Mathematics and Statistics, they were well-equipped to grasp the principles of Economics and pursue advanced studies in the field. Leveraging his personal connections, Dr. Selliah arranged for Dr. Mahalingasivam from the Ministry of Planning to teach Econometrics to this group.

Dr. Balan Selliah was a paragon of professionalism, always impeccably dressed and composed. Unlike many academics, he remained well-informed about current affairs and continuously updated his knowledge of developments within his specialization and industry. He extended the students' learning beyond the lecture theatre, encouraging them to engage with the latest research and innovations. His influence undeniably shifted our perspective from a backward-looking to a forward-thinking approach.

As an exceptional sportsman, he inspired students to engage actively in sports and other extracurricular activities. He possessed an impressive collection of advanced statistics books, which he generously shared with final-year students. Notable titles included Stochastic Processes, Advanced Statistical Analysis, Inferential Statistics, Estimation Theory, Non-Parametric Testing, Markov Chains, and Financial Risk Management. Many students found him approachable for personal issues, as his door was always open to those who needed help. His captivating smile often alleviated half their concerns, and his encouraging words served as invaluable support for those seeking guidance or assistance.

Dr. Balan Selliah was a first-class teacher whose lectures were always packed, with students eagerly vying for front-row seats. His clear handwriting and immaculate notes, crafted with chalk on blackboards, were a testament to his dedication. He meticulously ensured every student grasped his teachings. Punctual to the minute, he began his 11:30-12:30 lectures at 11:29 and aimed to conclude precisely at 12:30. While other lecturers faced a chorus of shoe-thumping if they overran, Dr. Selliah's captivating delivery allowed him to extend his sessions by ten to fifteen minutes without a single protest. His students were so engrossed in his lectures that they lost track of time, maintaining pin-drop silence until he set down his chalk. At that moment, the spell broke, and the students returned from their dreamlike state to reality. Dr. Selliah had a unique ability to transport his students to another dimension, holding them spellbound throughout his lectures.

It is no exaggeration to proclaim that Dr. Balan Selliah's knowledge of Mathematics and Statistics was nothing short of profound. His unwavering dedication to teaching was truly awe-inspiring. Many of our

batchmates were deeply aware of the extraordinary service rendered by his father, Mr. K. A. Selliah, to generations of students at Jaffna College. We often remarked that service ran in the very blood of the Selliah family. Without our beloved Dr. Jacob Balan Selliah, the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics of Jaffna Campus could not have flourished year after year, ultimately reaching the zenith of esteem among the Mathematics Departments of all six campuses in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Balan Selliah was later appointed as Professor of Statistics and continued to serve the University of Jaffna with unparalleled distinction. In 1983, he took a sabbatical leave and returned in 1984 to resume his duties. His early retirement and subsequent departure from the University of Jaffna marked a profound loss for the institution, which could not fully harness his immense knowledge and talent until his retirement.

Retirement:

In late 1984, he moved to Canada, where he graced the halls of the University of Toronto, York University (Ontario), and the present Redeemer University (Ancaster) as a senior lecturer and professor for four years. In 1988, he joined the Ministry of Environment on a two-year contract. The ministry, recognizing his invaluable contributions, extended his service for a further ten years, and he retired from the ministry in 1999. After retirement, he continued to share his wisdom as a consultant to Seneca College, before finally deciding to bring his illustrious official career to an end.

Though retired, his students continued to seek his guidance. Whenever former students or staff of the University of Jaffna visited Canada, one of their main destinations was Professor Balan Selliah's home. He was always overjoyed to welcome his old students and reminisce about cherished times. His wife fondly recalled that he frequently shared old anecdotes about the University of Jaffna or Jaffna College with deep affection. Even in his final days, people sought his help with Mathematics or contacted him from overseas for solutions to mathematical problems. He was always happy to oblige, as it kept his brilliant mind active. He also embarked on walking expeditions to maintain his fitness in his later years.

Final Tribute:

Wherever and whenever former students of the Science Faculty of the University of Jaffna from the period before 1983 gather, Professor Balan Selliah's name is always spoken with the utmost reverence and affection. Though we are much older now than when he was teaching us, the mere mention of his name softens our voices and humbles us. His contribution to the University of Jaffna was unparalleled and beyond measure. His extraordinary intellect, sharp mind, creative thoughts and captivating charm made him a truly unique individual. His life has left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all who were fortunate enough to come into contact with him. The legacy of Professor Balan Selliah will remain fresh in the minds of his students forever

Mr. Kathirithamby. Sivanandan (1st batch),
Former Senior Lecturer at West London College and Kensington College of Business, UK



Prof. Somasunderam Kandiah

Late Prof. Somasundaram Kandiah was the Head of the Department of Botany and the founding Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jaffna. He was born on 09 September 1936 in Ariyalai, located to the East of Jaffna Peninsula and went for his secondary education to St. John's College, Jaffna. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree from University of Colombo and earned his doctoral degree from Wye University of London. His doctoral research was focused on developing dwarf types of apple trees through plant breeding. He had a long and distinguished research and academic career. After the completion of his PhD, Prof. Kandiah returned to Sri Lanka and joined as a research officer at the Tea Research Institute at Talawakale, Sri Lanka. In 1978, Dr. Kandiah accepted a position as Senior Lecturer in Botany at the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna. At the Faculty of Science, he served as the Head of the Department of Botany and was later promoted to associate Professor in Botany. Prof. Kandiah accepted to serve as a Professor in Agronomy for the newly established Faculty of Agriculture in Kilinochchi in 1990 even though many of the Tamil academics were leaving the country during that time, as the civil war was worsening in the region. He was unanimously elected as the first Dean of the Faculty in October 1990.

Professor Kandiah was a man of vision; a vision in which he saw a bleak future for developing countries unless the efficiency of their food production was improved quickly. He saw this improved efficiency as one in which dependence on imported artificial fertilizers and pesticides and mechanization has little part. Appropriate agricultural technology through innovation was his view of the way forward for agriculture. His wide knowledge in crop physiology and his long experience in the practice of crop production were his assets. He utilized these in visualizing and Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

then experimenting with new techniques which were suited to the needs of Jaffna and similar developing communities in the region. He was interested in the development of the fruit crop potential of the northern province and was particularly involved in research to develop the full potential of the Palmyra palm in association with the Palmyra Development Board.

He was one of the most dedicated members of the university staff who toiled under the most trying conditions to keep the flame of learning burning in Jaffna. In late 1987, he was one of the few brave men who heeded the call of the late Vice-Chancellor, Professor A. Thurairajah, and went to the University while it was occupied by the Indian armed forces and started rebuilding the vastly destroyed department of Botany. As the President of the University Science Teachers' Association, Prof. Kandiah led many delegations to numerous Indian Army camps to argue and demand the release of innocent students and staff members who had been arrested by the Indian Peace Keeping Forces. He was also involved in pressing for conditions of safety to the University community and obtaining them during this period.

One of his great ambitions was to achieve substantial progress in research, teaching and outreach and to fulfill his vision before the end of his career. He was very pleased when he was appointed to the Faculty of Agriculture as he could implement many of his ideas in the new Faculty. He worked very hard despite suffering from attacks of asthma. During the hard times of Sri Lankan civil war, he used to travel by bicycle from Kilinochchi to Jaffna through Poonakary road with a few other fellow academics. On 23 March 1991, Prof. Kandiah met an untimely death due to a cardiac arrest while he was cycling back to Kilinochchi after attending the senate meeting at University of Jaffna. He left behind his wife and



four children. His dedication and commitment to the Faculty of Agriculture, is ever remembered by the University of Jaffna.

Many of his students at the Faculty of Agriculture and the Department of Botany remember him as a dedicated teacher, tireless researcher, and a committed administrator who was very keen to understand and solve students' problems. He has supervised many research students on the areas of improvement of horticultural crops and palmyra in the northern region.

He was a source of inspiration and a man of great wisdom and understanding. In memory of Professor Kandiah, a fund has been set up to provide financial support for research activities <https://jaffna.tripod.com/skfund.html>. In addition, a Memorial lecture has been set up at the Department of Agriculture. Professor Kandiah will dwell in the hearts of his numerous students and colleagues as a soft spoken and kind hearted man, a role model and a paragon of virtue, loved by all who chanced to know him.

Dr. Gita Sathianathan

Former Teaching Assistant Professor at the Pennsylvania State University, and retired as a Senior Lecturer from the California State University, Fullerton, California.



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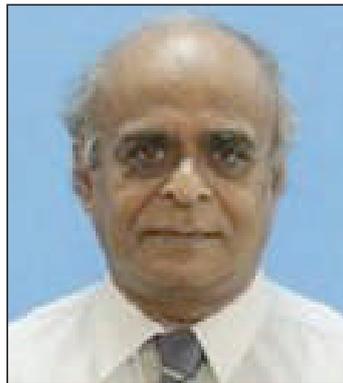
Honouring Living Legends



Prof. Velupillai Tharmaratnam



Prof. Rajaratnam Kumaravadivel



Prof. Kathirgamanathan Kandasamy



Prof. Kanagasabai Theivendrarajah



Dr. Sinnathamby Mahesan



Emeritus Professor Velupillai Tharmaratnam: Outstanding Mathematician and Administrator

Professor Vellupillai Tharmaratnam joined the University of Jaffna in late seventies at the age of forty from the University of Colombo where he had made a considerable name for himself as an energetic young Professor in Mathematics of great potential. In the University of Jaffna, he was soon appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Science in 1978. He faced the challenge to lead and develop the Faculty of Science further to gain recognition at the National and International level at its tender years. He has always shown the greatest interest in academic affairs. He is famous for his uncompromising attitude towards maintaining quality education. He brought changes in the Academic course structure to gain wider acceptance. He had a great deal of experience in administrative and legislative matters pertaining to Academic Institutions, which gave him a good stead in statutory bodies, viz Senate, Council & UGC. He knew what needed to be done for the betterment of the Faculty. He was instrumental in drafting many sound proposals and contributed immensely to the infrastructure development of the Faculty. Most of the buildings of the Faculty of Science were put up during his tenure as Dean (1978 - 1984). He confidently led the Faculty of Science to its prime position in a relatively short duration compared with other faculties.

At the eve of Professor Tharmaratnam's retirement, a pang of separation and sadness fell upon us. He is a spirited academic man of diverse qualities; a gifted teacher, mentor, trusted advisor, natural leader, talented administrator, sound debater and excellent sportsman.

"The Association of Great Souls is rarely obtained, difficult to understand and Infallible" - Narada Muni

I am fortunate to have association with a towering personality as Professor Tharmaratnam for twenty-

four years, firstly as a Special degree student in Mathematics and then as a Colleague in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He made Mathematics interesting to us and has instilled in us a permanent love for Mathematics and longing to carry it further.

"Mathematical Proofs, Like Diamonds, are hard as well as clear, and will be touched with Nothing but Strict Reasoning" - JOHN LOCKE

His lectures are very original and delightful to attend. He comes to lectures without any notes or other materials except with a piece of chalk and conducts the lectures in a natural and infallible manner. He is always precise and very rigorous. He has made notable contributions to the National and International Mathematical community. He trained and groomed several promising Mathematicians and published a number of useful theorems in the Field of Near Rings and related areas.

By nature, Professor Tharmaratnam is a very calm and quite person who avoids unpleasant arguments, and speaks authoritatively when occasion arises. He was respected by his friends and foes alike. Undoubtedly, he is a man of the highest integrity and the greatest impartiality.

I also must mention that Professor Tharmaratnam's beloved partner Mrs. Kanageswary Tharmaratnam, a charming companion took keen interest in his domestic and social duties allowing him to do an excellent service to the University during strenuous years. We extend our gratitude to her. Finally, I wish and pray that the powerful almighty may shed his choicest blessing on him and his wife to lead a happy and peaceful retired life.

Professor Sivakolunthu Srisatkunrajah

Vice Chancellor and Professor in Mathematics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics.



Emeritus Professor Rajaratnam Kumaravadivel: An academic and administrator of the highest calibre

Professor Rajaratnam Kumaravadivel was born on February 3, 1947, in Jaffna. He embarked on his academic journey at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya in October 1965, pursuing a General Science degree with a focus on Physics and Mathematics. He distinguished himself early on, achieving First Class Honours in the General Degree examination in 1968. This accomplishment led to his appointment as a Temporary Demonstrator in Physics at Peradeniya in 1968, followed by a promotion to Temporary Assistant Lecturer in 1969. Professor Kumaravadivel then undertook a honours degree program in Physics, securing First Class Honours in 1970 and earning the Coomarasamy Memorial Prize and the Hewavitharana Memorial Prize for his outstanding performance.

In 1971, Professor Kumaravadivel proceeded to the University of Bristol, UK, where he pursued postgraduate studies in Theoretical Solid-State Physics. He was awarded a PhD in 1975. Upon returning to Peradeniya in 1976, he played a crucial role in addressing the department's acute shortage of qualified teachers, organizing and conducting lectures on all theoretical physics topics at the Honours Degree level.

Professional Achievements

Professor Kumaravadivel's career is marked by his commitment to academic excellence and leadership. In 1977, he began commuting from Peradeniya to Jaffna under challenging conditions to teach physics on weekends at the then Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka. He served as the Lecturer in Charge and Head of the Department of Physics at the University of Peradeniya from January 1978 to January 1979. His role as an External Examiner for the Jaffna Campus and the Eastern University of Sri Lanka further

highlighted his dedication to the advancement of physics education in the region.

In April 1980, Professor Kumaravadivel joined the Department of Physics at the University of Jaffna as a Senior Lecturer. He was promoted to Professor of Theoretical Physics in March 1986 at the age of 39. Over his illustrious career, he trained hundreds of physics graduates, many of whom hold prominent positions in universities, research institutions, and government departments both in Sri Lanka and abroad.

Contribution to Science Education/Teaching

Professor Kumaravadivel was highly regarded by his students as an exceptional and dedicated teacher. His meticulous planning and methodical approach to teaching left a lasting impact on his students. He played a pivotal role in drafting the physics curriculum at both the University of Peradeniya and the University of Jaffna, ensuring the courses met high academic standards. His commitment to education extended beyond the classroom, as he mentored and guided numerous students throughout their academic journeys.

Contribution to Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

Professor Kumaravadivel's primary research interest lay in the theory of the structure and thermodynamic properties of liquid metals and liquid metal surfaces. His work earned international recognition and commendation from esteemed physicists such as Professor J.M. Ziman, FRS (UK), Professor J.E. Enderby (UK), Professor W.H. Young (UK), Professor Watabe (Japan), and Professor M. Tosi (Italy).

The International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Italy, a prestigious institution founded by

Nobel Laureate Professor Abdus Salam, appointed him as an Associate for two consecutive terms from 1982 to 1994. Despite the challenging conditions in Jaffna, he managed to visit the ICTP twice. In 1991, he was awarded a Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship to pursue research at the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, further solidifying his reputation as a leading researcher in theoretical solid-state physics. His extensive contributions to the theory of liquid metals are widely cited in numerous research publications, review articles, and books.

Contribution to the Development of Department / Faculty/University/Country

Beyond his research and teaching, Professor Kumaravadivel was a capable and enthusiastic administrator. He served as Head of the Department of Physics for nearly a decade and led the Computer Unit for a time. His leadership was instrumental in the Faculty of Science's development, securing grants worth over 200 million rupees from the World Bank and other national funding agencies. Elected as Dean of the Faculty of Science four times and serving in that capacity for 11 years, he steered the faculty through challenging periods, fostering growth and academic excellence. From June 2006 to December 2007, Professor Kumaravadivel served as acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna during a tumultuous time. His steadfast leadership ensured the university continued to function effectively, maintaining high standards, values, and principles. Although he was nominated three times by the University Council as one of their nominees, twice as their first nominee, for the post of Vice-Chancellor, his uncompromising stance and independence prevented his appointment. Nevertheless, his contributions to the university, particularly the Faculty of Science and the Department of Physics, were immense and enduring. As an administrator he was known to be a strict disciplinarian, methodical in planning and execution, a remarkable fund raiser and an uncompromising

administrator fixated on first principles. It is these qualities that led him to be appointed to the University Grants Commission which he served for five years between 2015 and 2020. At the UGC he was tasked with various reform efforts and was also appointed to its Management Committee.

Professor Kumaravadivel's influence extended beyond academia into community service. His commitment to the welfare of the university community was evident during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor, where he prioritized the interests of staff and students amidst difficult circumstances. His leadership ensured that academic activities continued smoothly.

Following the 1977 riots, during which the Kuinchi Kumaran Temple (University of Peradeniya) was severely damaged, Prof. Kumaravadivel as a young academic gave leadership to renovating the temple and performing its consecration ceremony. From 1972 he has functioned as the Trustee of the Viloony Vinayagar Temple in Jaffna. Prof. Kumaravadivel is a much respected Hindu Leader in Jaffna owing to his meticulous management of the Viloony Vinayagar Temple. He served as Editor of the Hindu Organ, a publication of the Saiva Paripalana Sabai for close to four years. When the Keerimalai Holy Tank was closed during the war Prof. Kumaravadivel along with the then Government Agent of Jaffna took pioneering efforts to renovate and reopen the Viloony Holy Tank in 1994 which for the last 20 years has been providing services to the Hindu populous of Jaffna to perform their holy rites to their dear departed. Prof. Kumaravadivel's career in science and religion is an inspirational testament to how both can harmoniously co-exist.

Professor Kumaravadivel's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, research, and the development of the University of Jaffna is beyond any comparison. His legacy continues to inspire and guide future generations of physicists, academics and university administrators.

Professor Punniamoorthy Ravirajan

Dean of the Faculty of Science and Senior Professor of Physics, University of Jaffna



Emeritus Professor Kathirgamanathan Kandasamy: An outstanding researcher and a dedicated Academic

Background of Education and Academic Accomplishments

Born on January 28, 1951, Professor Kathirgamanathan Kandasamy entered the University of Peradeniya in 1970 to pursue a four-year special degree in Physics. He graduated with upper second-class honours, demonstrating early on his strong aptitude for the subject. Following his graduation, he was appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in Physics at the University of Peradeniya in March 1974. In June 1975, he joined the newly established Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka as an Assistant Lecturer in Physics. His quest for further knowledge took him to the United Kingdom in 1977, where he conducted postgraduate research on the Metal-Hydrogen system at the University of Keele under the supervision of Professor N.A. Surplice, earning his PhD in 1980.

Professional Achievements

Upon completing his PhD, Dr. Kandasamy returned to the University of Jaffna, where he collaborated closely with Professors Kumaravadivel and Kunaratnam to uphold and enhance the standards of physics courses. He played a crucial role in organizing and developing the Department of Physics, demonstrating exceptional dedication by establishing undergraduate laboratories and a well-equipped mechanical workshop that served the entire university. Despite the loss of equipment during the mass exodus of October 1995, he worked tirelessly to rebuild these facilities in the late 1990s.

His commitment and excellence in academics and research earned him steady promotions, culminating in his appointment as Senior Professor of Physics in 2007. Over his illustrious career spanning more than four decades, Professor Kandasamy trained thousands of physics graduates, many of whom have gone on to hold prominent positions in academia, research Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

institutions, and government departments both in Sri Lanka and internationally.

Contribution to Science Education/Teaching

Professor Kandasamy was highly regarded as a dedicated and hardworking teacher, always available to assist students and junior colleagues. He taught almost all the course units offered by the department over 42 years, leaving an indelible mark on countless students. His meticulous approach to teaching and his willingness to clear doubts at any time earned him admiration and respect from both students and peers. His efforts in organizing and developing the Department of Physics significantly enhanced the quality of education provided by the university.

Contribution to Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

Professor Kandasamy's research abilities have been recognized both nationally and internationally. He was appointed as an Associate of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Italy, a prestigious institution founded by Nobel Laureate Professor Abdus Salam and sponsored by UNESCO and IAEA. His research and teaching activities took him to various institutions around the world, including the University of Durham, Queen Elizabeth College in London, the University of Science in Malaysia, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Cambridge, among others.

He held numerous honors and fellowships, including the Commonwealth Universities Academic Staff Fellowship, the Associateship of the ICTP, and the Developing Country Fellowship of the Royal Society of London. He participated in several seminars, conferences, and workshops, and made study visits to countries such as India, Pakistan, Yugoslavia, Italy, and Thailand contributing significantly to the



global dissemination of knowledge. He spent his sabbatical leave periodically to pursue collaborative research work at the Queens University of Belfast, UK, the Academy of Sciences, Czechoslovakia and University of Kyushu, Japan in 1987, 1990 & 1997, respectively by receiving fellowships from the respective universities.

Contribution to the Development of Department /Faculty/University/Country

Professor Kandasamy was deeply committed to the development of the University of Jaffna. He served as Head of the Department of Physics and Dean of three faculties: Graduate Studies, Science, and Technology. His leadership during difficult periods was instrumental in steering these departments and faculties towards growth and development. He played a vital role in establishing undergraduate laboratories and a mechanical workshop, which were crucial for the university's functioning.

His contributions were recognized by his appointments to various key positions. He was an active member of the Campus Board, the Council, and the Senate for several years, and served on numerous standing committees of these bodies. His leadership and administrative skills were further acknowledged when he was nominated for the post of

Vice-Chancellor twice, in 2005 and 2008. He served as a Competent Authority of the University of Jaffna from May 2019 to August 2020.

Recognized Community Outreach Activities

In addition to his academic and administrative roles, Professor Kandasamy was deeply involved in community outreach activities. He was a pioneer member of the National Research Council (NRC), appointed by the then President of Sri Lanka in 1999, with his membership being renewed six times. He played a significant role in training Tamil medium physics teachers and chaired a committee that prepared a glossary of technical terms in physics. His contributions extended beyond the university, impacting the wider community and advancing physics education in the country.

Professor Kandasamy's career is a testament to his unwavering commitment to academic excellence, research, and the development of the University of Jaffna. His legacy continues to inspire and guide future generations of physicists and academics. His retirement marks the end of an era, but his contributions to physics education and the University of Jaffna will be remembered and cherished for years to come.

Professor Punniamoorthy Ravirajan

Dean of the Faculty of Science and Senior Professor of Physics, University of Jaffna



Professor Kanagasabai Thivendrarajah:

A Unique Personality

Background - Education and Academic Accomplishments

Professor K. Theivendirarajah, a distinguished figure in the field of Botany, began his academic journey at Jaffna Central College in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. He graduated from the University of Ceylon, Colombo, with a BSc degree in Botany in 1963. Immediately after graduation, he embarked on his teaching career as an assistant lecturer at the University of Peradeniya. In 1966, he moved to London, UK, to pursue his graduate studies and was awarded a PhD in Microbial Genetics from Queen Mary College, University of London, in October 1969. His doctoral research on the “killer character” of yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*), supervised by Prof. E.A. Bevan contributed significantly to the field of microbial genetics.

Professional Achievements

Upon returning to Sri Lanka, Professor Theivendirarajah resumed his academic career at the University of Peradeniya, where he served as a lecturer and senior lecturer until 1978. During this period, he pioneered the teaching of genetics and molecular biology at Sri Lankan universities, inspiring many students to pursue research in these fields. In July 1978, he joined the University of Jaffna as a Professor and Head of the Department of Botany, a position he held until 1992. His tenure included a year at the University of Cambridge (1978-1979) as a Commonwealth Fellow, researching genetic recombination in *Sordaria brevicollis* with Dr. H.K. Whitehouse. In 1986-1987, he collaborated with Dr. B.C. Lamb at the University of London, Imperial College, on gene conversion in *Ascobolus immersus*.

Contributions to Science Education, Teaching, Research, and Dissemination of Knowledge

At the University of Jaffna, Professor Theivendirarajah was instrumental in establishing graduate studies in the Faculty of Science. He supervised two PhD and four MPhil students, significantly advancing the department’s research

output. His contributions to genetics and microbiology included numerous research studies on the microbiology of palm juice fermentation, culminating in his book “Palmyrah Palm – A Monograph” in 2008. His innovative teaching techniques and dedication to disseminating knowledge have left a lasting impact on his students, many of whom have become prominent researchers and academics worldwide.

Contribution to the Development of the Department, Faculty and University

Professor Theivendirarajah’s leadership in the Department of Botany at the University of Jaffna was marked by significant academic and administrative achievements. He played a crucial role in organizing the department and implementing effective management practices. His commitment to fairness and integrity was evident when he voluntarily stepped down as department head to ensure a fair investigation into an allegation, which was later proven baseless. His bilingual proficiency in Tamil and English enhanced his teaching effectiveness, ensuring clear and precise communication in both languages. Despite the challenges posed by the civil war in Sri Lanka, he continued to contribute to the development of the department and the university.

Recognized Community Outreach Activities

After migrating to Canada in 1992, Professor Theivendirarajah worked as a charge microbiologist at Alpha Laboratories in Toronto until his retirement in 2011. He founded the Jaffna University Alumni Association (JUAA Canada) and served as President of the Sri Lanka Graduate Association (SLGA) in Canada. His active involvement in these organizations included career counseling and guidance for high school students, helping them choose suitable educational paths. As President of the Jaffna Central College OBA Canada, he remained dedicated to his alma mater. His students fondly remember his academic prowess, innovative teaching methods, and unwavering commitment to education and guidance. They remain grateful for his contributions and wish him and his family a long, healthy life.

Mr. Somasundaram Srikathirgamanathan

Former Lecturer, Department of English Language Teaching, University of Jaffna



Dr. S. Mahesan: A Legacy of Academic Excellence

Background of Education and Academic Accomplishments

Dr. Sinnathamby Mahesan's academic journey at the University of Jaffna began in 1977 as an undergraduate student at the Faculty of Science. His dedication to his studies led to his achievement of a Second Class Upper Division in his BSc degree, specializing in Statistics, in 1981. Shortly after, in 1982, he was appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics at the same university. By 1989, he had advanced to the position of Lecturer in Mathematics. Dr. Mahesan's pursuit of academic excellence continued as he completed an MSc degree in Computer Science from University College, Cardiff, in 1986, followed by a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Wales, Cardiff, in 1992. His commitment to expanding his knowledge and skills was further demonstrated when he received the Commonwealth Fellowship award, which allowed him to spend a year at the University of Wales, UK, updating his expertise in various aspects of Computer Science.

Career Path and Professional Achievements

Dr. Mahesan's professional career is marked by his pivotal role in the establishment and development of the Department of Computer Science (DCS) at the University of Jaffna. The department was founded in 1990, with significant contributions from the late Professor Kanthia Kunaratnam, and Dr. Mahesan transitioned from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to join the newly established department on October 1, 1990. He quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a Senior Lecturer Grade II shortly after completing his PhD in 1992. His leadership roles within the university included serving as the Head of the Department of Computer Science from 1997

to 1999 and from 2000 to 2008, as well as Acting Head of the Computer Unit. His visionary leadership extended beyond the department as he contributed to various World Bank-funded projects at the University of Jaffna, including the IRQUE project and the HETC project. Dr. Mahesan also served on the Board of Directors of the Lanka Education and Research Network (LEARN) from 2010 to 2014, further cementing his influence on the development of ICT services in Sri Lanka.

Contribution to Science Education

Dr. Mahesan played a crucial role in the advancement of science education at the University of Jaffna. His efforts included the revamping of the computer science curriculum to introduce Java as an object-oriented programming language, ensuring the sustainability of the Honours Degree programme in Computer Science. He was instrumental in expanding the Computer Unit as a centralized resource center, providing ICT education and access to all students at the university. His initiatives in establishing Internet connectivity, email services, and a campus-wide fiber optic network significantly enhanced the university's computing services, bringing them to a level comparable with other prestigious universities in Sri Lanka. Dr. Mahesan's commitment to science education extended beyond the university as he participated in workshops, such as the Workshop on Multimedia and Distance Education at Indira Gandhi National Open University in New Delhi, India, in 2004, and contributed to the development of ICT services for research-related activities.

Contribution to Research and Dissemination of Knowledge

Dr. Mahesan's contributions to research and Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

the dissemination of knowledge are substantial. He has authored numerous research publications, including two book chapters, seven journal articles, 13 conference full papers, and 19 abstracts. His mentorship has guided numerous postgraduate students to successful graduation, including overseeing the completion of three MPhil degrees in Computer Science at the University of Jaffna and co-supervising two PhD degrees in partnership with the University of Sheffield, UK, and the University of Peradeniya. Additionally, he has guided nearly 100 undergraduate students in their individual research projects, often managing a substantial workload under challenging circumstances. His dedication to research and teaching has left a lasting impact on the graduates of the Department of Computer Science, many of whom remain indebted to his mentorship.

Contribution to Development of Department/ Faculty/University

Dr. Mahesan's contributions to the development of the Department of Computer Science, the Faculty of Science, and the University of Jaffna as a whole have been transformative. As a pioneering member of the Department of Computer Science, he played a pivotal role in its establishment and growth. His efforts in expanding the Computer Unit, establishing Internet connectivity, and implementing a campus-wide fiber optic network have significantly enhanced the university's infrastructure and services. His leadership

in various roles, including Head of the Department of Computer Science, Head of the Computer Unit, and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Science, has contributed to the university's development and reputation. Dr. Mahesan's proactive efforts in enhancing computing services, coupled with his visionary leadership, have elevated the University of Jaffna to a level comparable with other prestigious universities in Sri Lanka. His contributions have had a lasting impact on the university's development and the academic and professional growth of its students and staff.

Dr. Mahesan undertook a substantial workload single-handedly, largely due to staffing shortages, particularly in challenging circumstances such as limited computer availability for practical sessions, power outages, and displacement. He delivered lectures on nearly all subjects offered by the Department of Computer Science together with Dr. S. Kanaganathan and with significant support from temporary staff. Over the past three decades, Dr. Mahesan has selflessly and tirelessly shared his knowledge with hundreds of graduates from the Department of Computer Science, who remain indebted to his dedicated mentorship.

As Dr. Mahesan embarks on this new chapter in life, the DCS family extends their best wishes, hoping it is a journey filled with happiness, good health, and the realisation of his dreams. We anticipate that he will continue to journey alongside the DCS community in all its upcoming endeavours.

Dr. (Mrs.) Barathy Mayurathan

Head and Senior Lecturer in Computer Science, University of Jaffna.

Golden Memories of the Alumni

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Golden Memories in a Golden Jubilee Celebration

Memories of a student from the first batch of the Faculty of Science

As I attempt to capture the memories of my university days at the cherished University of Jaffna, a myriad of emotions envelops me. Recollections surge from every corner, making it challenging to translate the multitude of thoughts into words on paper. Reflecting on that golden era of carefree youth, I am reminded of the exceptionally brilliant and caring professors and lecturers who shaped our intellect, character and values. The transformative experiences that evolved us from naïve youths into conscientious adults, along with the academic and life lessons learned, all vie for recognition in my narrative. Amidst this, I grapple with the concern of whether I can adequately honour each of these facets in my recounting.

Founding of the Jaffna Campus:

Perhaps it might be beneficial for posterity to provide some historical background information of the founding of the University of Jaffna.

It was in 1973. The Advanced Level examinations were held in April. By December, the students were notified of their results and whether they had been selected for university admission or not.

At that time, there was only one University of Sri Lanka which comprised five campuses. As the selected students received information about their admissions to various campuses, a group of 103 students selected for physical sciences were left in the dark without being assigned to any particular campus. As the five existing campuses lacked the necessary facilities to accommodate this group, the government decided to establish a new campus in the north. This goal was achieved by amalgamating Parameswara College with the Jaffna College Undergraduate Department, Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

two venerable institutions with distinguished history. This solved the immediate problem of the admission of this group and helped easing the pressure of increasing demand for university places in the future.

Amidst numerous messages and rumours about potential campus placements over a prolonged period, these students were eventually informed that they would be assigned to the newly established Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka which was officially to be opened by the Prime Minister, Sirimavo Bandaranaike. We belonged to the inaugural batch of the Jaffna Campus but did not fully realise at the time that we were going to become the ‘super-seniors’ playing a crucial role in shaping the history of our beloved university.

Welcoming the students – the first day.

On the morning of Vijayadasami Day in 1974, we arrived at the Thirunelveli Campus. At an auspicious time, we were led to a hall situated about a quarter of a mile from the campus, situated in a lane, directly opposite it. This hall, founded by the ancient kings of Jaffna, had long served as a place for providing food and lodging to travellers and pilgrims bound for Jaffna. It was maintained in good condition throughout the ages.

All the students, accompanied by some parents and visitors, were served a traditional Sri Lankan-style ‘brunch.’ Rice and a variety of delicious vegetarian dishes graced banana leaves as the main course, followed by the sweet delicacy of ‘payasam.’ After the meal, we marched in a procession to the campus, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of ‘managala’ drums and nathaswaram. The president and two deans led the way, followed by students and Senior Assistant

Registrars. As young students, we felt exhilarated at being treated like dignitaries.

The opening ceremony, conducted in all three languages, marked a historic moment. The president, deans, and officials from the Ministry of Education emphasized our duty and responsibility as the first batch of the university in their welcoming addresses. I quote a few excerpts from their memorable speeches: ‘We are in this great and noble endeavour together. Let us build a successful institution for you and the future generations. Remember the chief ideal of the founders of the two great institutions—to enlighten society through education. Our university motto correctly reflects this ideal. We expect from you an army of thinkers, creative personalities, and men and women dedicated to serving mankind. Today, with one hundred and twelve students, we launch this small campus. Don’t forget: ‘Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.’ In time, it will evolve into a great seat of learning for generations to come.’ Reflecting on those grand masters’ foresight, I marvel at their vision today, fifty years later.

Our journey begins:

The Jaffna Campus was composed of two locations about 10 miles apart. The main building was at Parameswara College reserved for the offices of the President, Dean of Faculty of Humanities and all Administrative Registrars. It also had a library, a canteen of satisfactory standard, a large playground and a library suitable mainly for the arts faculty. The Vaddukkodai Campus boasted of a modern lecture hall, an exemplary library, a sportsground with a stadium and a pavilion and two separate hostel facilities for men and women.

Parameswara College had been founded by Sir P Ramanathan, one of the most distinguished sons that Ceylon has ever produced, who had left an indelible mark in the modern history of Sri Lanka. Jaffna College and its predecessor, the Batticotta Seminary have a long-standing history of producing eminent and erudite scholars since 1823. The merger of these two outstanding institutions to create a seat of higher learning that will foster and flourish the proud literary

tradition of Jaffna seems to be nothing short of the will of providence.

First year morning lectures would take place at Ottley Hall, Vaddukkodai. At 12.30 the borders rush to the hostels to have their lunch. A bus service would shuttle the students back and forth between the campuses for the afternoon tutorial sessions which were held at Parameswara College, Thirunelveli campus.

In the second year, we, the first batch of Science Faculty students were moved to Thirunelveli. The second batch was taken into the Vaddukkodai Campus.

The Alumni – The Pioneers:

The President, Professor Kailasapathy, was a renowned critic of writings in the Tamil language and literature. His command of English and Tamil was exemplary. Despite hailing from an affluent family background, he was known for simplicity as a professor and had earned a reputation for his anti-establishment views. He was well known in the island, having served as the editor of a prominent and prestigious Tamil daily *Thinakaran* which was part of the Lakehouse Group of News Papers. His editorials were popular and commanded the respect of the elite and the working classes. We have already heard about his versatility as a high level intellectual, skilled administrator and a gifted writer. Some of us have read many of his books. He cared for every student and his doors were open to the students at any time he was on campus.

Dean of the Science Faculty, Professor Kanagasabapathy was a distinguished and experienced Mathematician. During his long tenure as the Professor of Mathematics at Peradeniya Campus, he mentored a lineage of Mathematicians who later became professors, deans and vice-Chancellors as well as top level civil servants and scientists in Sri Lanka and abroad. Although he was not easily approachable, he was a disciplined and protective personality with an attention to details. We were fortunate to have him as our professor. He taught us every term of the first two years and his deep knowledge and vast experience were definite sources of immense inspiration for us. I

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must place it on record that it was the misfortune of our campus that he passed away in our third year leaving a vacuum, which was hard to fill. Many years later when I became acquainted with some professors in the UK, I was amazed to learn that he had been a widely known figure among the professors of Mathematics of international reputation.

Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Indrapala was the most friendly and caring type of person among all the academics. His office was the first port of call for many of the students from both the science and humanities faculties. No problem was too big or too small for him to address. He earned the trust and affection of the science students which no doubt would have been a source of envy for other staff members. It is with utmost sincerity I offer my gratitude to Professor Indrapala for guiding many of us through our turbulent transformation from naivety into adulthood and motivating us to remain focused on our goals and objectives.

Mr. Varatharajaperumal is another lecturer who deserves a special mention here. He was the grandson of the famous poet Navalay Somasundara Pulavar, one of the most distinguished Tamil poets of the late nineteenth century. Devoted to the intellectual development of his students and known as a keen disciplinarian, he earned a deep awe among students and staff. His lectures were methodical in the style of an army drill and his notes were precise. He would never tolerate even the slightest deviation of attention during his lectures.

The list will not be complete without mentioning the name of Dr. Balan Selliah. He joined us midway during our first year, after obtaining his doctorate in Statistics from a university in the United States. A true scholar, he possessed deep and profound knowledge of Mathematics and Statistics. He hailed from a family of renowned teachers and principals, who have upheld the high educational standard of Jaffna in the last two centuries. Few lecturers could match his artistry in teaching. We were indeed blessed that he became our lecturer; the quality of the Statistics syllabus transformed under his leadership as the head of the department. Under his guidance, the Jaffna Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

Campus's Department of Statistics soared to the academic preeminence among all the campuses of the University of Sri Lanka. An outstanding sportsman as well, he always emphasized the importance of proper technique and timing in sports. His students would undoubtedly remember him forever, for the impression he left on their hearts was incomparably unique.

The selfless and duty conscious services of many other lecturers in the alumni like Ginadasa, De Silva, Malhadeen, Miss Ponnudurai, Easwarathasdan, Jeyarajah and Mutuvel are recorded here with gratitude and affection. Mr. Ganesalingam who was following a doctoral programme in a foreign university, used to take lectures whenever he was visiting Sri Lanka. One cannot forget the valuable services rendered by the staff of the library, administrative and the canteen in making our student lives smooth and comfortable.

Facing initial challenges:

Many of us felt a twinge of disappointment when we learnt that the Science Faculty would implement a modular system. This new approach required the students to study three modules per term and sit for exams at the end of each term. It seemed that we would be perpetually engrossed in our studies, with scant time left for leisure activities. By contrast, students from other campuses prepared for exams only at the end of their first and final years.

Furthermore, we were informed that English would be the medium of instruction. Main lectures catering to both Tamil and Sinhalese students were delivered in English. However, the tutorial sessions in the afternoons were conducted separately in Sinhala and Tamil.

We voiced our concerns about this policy to Professor Kanagasabapathy. He reassured us that during the evaluation of our answer scripts only the mathematical content would be considered. No student would suffer for grammatical or semantical errors in language usage. He looked us squarely in the eye and asserted 'Believe me, you will never regret studying in English medium. The true value of this will become apparent once you step into the real world.' Reflecting

on the words of that great man now, I realise the profound wisdom in his words.

A memorable incident in the second year:

One late evening, what started as a clash between two student groups quickly degenerated into a full-blown brawl. The scene turned chaotic as chairs, desks and books began to fly through the air, resulting in injuries. The marshal and his team intervened, managing to separate the combatants. Yet, despite our best efforts, an air of tension lingered. Upon hearing of the incident, the president, fresh from a wearying journey from Colombo and still in his bathroom slippers hurried to the campus. His mere presence shifted the mood towards reconciliation.

He ushered us all to the canteen and we all were treated with tea and snacks at his expense. His actions quickly diffused the tension reinstating a jovial and friendly atmosphere. At the end of the evening, he shared words that resonated deeply with every one of us: He said 'I may be not old enough to be your father. But I regard all of you as my own children. And now speaking as a father, remember that your parents have sent you here with high expectations. Do not disappoint them. Do not disappoint me'. When he finished, there wasn't a single eye that was not filled with moist. His sincere words spoken from a kind heart had a profound effect. Our respect and affection for him for him grew even stronger after that night.

Some memories:

- We were honoured to host several distinguished guests during our social nights and hostel parties. Among them was Professor Karunathilaka, Dean of Science Faculty, Colombo Campus, who graced one of our events as the chief guest. He had been a student under Professor Kanagasabapathy in Peradeniya Campus. Additionally, Vasu Theva Nanayakara, an MP, visited our hostel and shared a meal with us. There were many other notable visitors, though their names escape me as time has dimmed those memories.
- Dr. Manickcka Idaikadar, a statistician with the World Bank, delivered special lectures on

advanced statistical topics during his visit to Sri Lanka.

- Upon his return from the U.K. after earning his PhD, Dr. Gamini Seniviratne imparted his knowledge on various topics including Eigen Spaces before taking up a permanent position at Peradeniya Campus. His exceptional teaching quickly garnered the admiration and respect of all students.
- During our journey, we welcomed two junior batches into our fold. The student numbers were rising rapidly.
- New professors joined our faculty, bringing fresh perspectives and knowledge.
- The campus landscape transformed with the construction of new buildings and laboratories. Sports facilities saw gradual enhancements.
- We took a significant step by enacting the constitution for the Science Students' Union.

In 1977, the political landscape of our country was reshaped by the winds of change. The general election ushered in a new government under the UNP, which secured a substantial majority and embarked on implementing sweeping economic and political reforms. Amidst this transformative period, July witnessed a communal riot fuelled by unfounded rumours that Sinhalese students had been assaulted at the Jaffna Campus. Unrest spread nationwide. It is imperative to set the record straight: we, the university community, safeguarded our Sinhalese friends and orchestrated their secure evacuation from Jaffna. Regrettably, due to security concerns, the authorities decided to relocate our Sinhalese friends to Vidyalankara Campus for the remainder of their studies.

The government responded by convening an inquiry commission led by the esteemed retired Justice Mr. Sansoni to investigate the origins of the riot. Notably, one of our Sinhalese classmates, Sumanapala, testified before the Sansoni Commission, affirming that the Sinhalese students were indeed protected by both students and staff at Jaffna Campus and were safely returned to Colombo.

In a strategic shift, the government dismantled the unified structure of the Sri Lankan University comprising six campuses and elevated each of the six campuses to fully-fledged autonomous university status.

Consequently, as we sat for our final examinations in 1978, we did so as students of the newly established University of Jaffna.

Final Parting and farewell:

The convocation ceremony was held in the Veerasingham Hall, Jaffna. Instead of the customary black attire, we wore vibrant yellow robes- a departure from convention. The certificates, printed in all three languages, stood as grand testaments of our achievements and were notably larger than those awarded by other Sri Lankan Universities. For our batch mates, the ‘super seniors’ it marked the most painful farewell – an unspoken understanding that our paths might not cross again – a sad realisation that a pleasant dream was coming to an end. As the sun dipped below the horizon, casting its golden embrace upon the magnificent library of Jaffna and the Clock Tower, we exchanged bittersweet glances – a silent acknowledgement of a final parting and farewell to a cherished land of memories.

After our graduation, we ventured into the real world to pursue our destinies. While some of us sought opportunities in foreign lands, others remained in Sri Lanka. Despite being dispersed across various corners of the globe, separated by distance and obligations, the spirit instilled in us by our cherished university continued to unite us—the ‘super-seniors’—in our shared memories. As we navigated the highs and

lows of life, the recollections of our university days provided a profound source of courage and solace. In retrospect, the experiences we gained are invaluable treasures, and we would never agree to exchange our unique journey as the inaugural batch of a new-born university for anything else.

Conclusion and Greetings:

The motto of our university – ‘Discernment Is Wisdom’ - aptly encapsulates the essence of true learning. Our alumni and students carry forward the torch of knowledge, upholding our long-established traditions to foster enlightenment. From its humble beginnings with just two faculties, about one hundred students and limited resources, our campus has blossomed into a fully-fledged university. Today it boasts of numerous faculties, serving over three thousand students across a diverse array of courses. The Science Faculty, in particular, has overcome formidable challenges to reach its current stature, with each obstacle fortifying its commitment to delivering exceptional science education. The dedication of the Dean of Science Faculty, Prof. P. Ravirajan was particularly commendable when I had the chance to speak with him. As a ‘super-senior’, I take pride – in the most positive sense- in having participated in taking the unrivalled first step of the remarkable, historic and wonderful journey of our beloved university fifty years ago. I extend my best wishes for the Faculty of Science to thrive further and to joyfully mark its diamond and centenary milestones in time. On this note, I convey my heartfelt greetings for the golden jubilee celebration to be a resounding success.

Mr. K. Sivanandan (1st batch)

Former Senior Lecturer at West London College & Kensington College of Business



Late Emeritus Professor Kandiah Kunaratnam - From my memories

நமது கல்விப் பயணத்தின் பரந்த திரைச்சீலையில், தங்கள் ஞானம், கருணை மற்றும் அர்ப்பணிப்பு ஆகியவற்றால் பாதையை ஒளிரச் செய்யும் நட்சத்திரங்களைப் போல தனித்து நிற்கும் சில நபர்கள் உள்ளனர். அவர்களுள் ஒரு தனிமனிதர் என் நினைவில் பிரகாசிக்கிறார் – மறைந்த பேராசிரியர் குணரத்தினம், இயற்பியல் கல்வித் துறையில் உத்வேகத்தின் கலங்கரை விளக்கமாகத் திகழ்ந்தார்.

One of our Faculty of Science pioneers, late Prof Kunaratnam who was instrumental to develop the Physics department. It's important to remember him during this golden Jubilee celebrations for his tireless contributions to his students, physics department, science faculty and the University of Jaffna as a whole. In the vast tapestry of our educational journey, there are certain figures who stand out like guiding stars, illuminating the path with their wisdom, compassion, and dedication. Among them, one individual shine particularly bright in my memory – Late Professor Kunaratnam, a beacon of inspiration in the realm of education. Professor Kunaratnam possesses a rare combination of warmth, firmness and simplicity, which instantly creates a nurturing environment in his Lecture room.

In a world where science is often seen as dry and inaccessible, where teachers often go unrecognized for their tireless efforts, Prof Kunaratnam stands as a beacon of inspiration, illuminating the cosmos with the radiance of his passion. He was not just a teacher; he was a mentor, a guide, a role model, an approachable person without any intimidation and a source of inspiration for all who have the privilege of learning from him. And though words may never fully capture the depth of his impact, I am endlessly grateful for the light he has shed on my own educational and career journey, and the journeys of countless others.

But perhaps the greatest testament to Prof Kunaratnam's impact is the lasting impression he leaves on his students. Long after we've left his

classroom, his lessons continue to resonate in our memories, lives, shaping the way we approach challenges, embrace opportunities, and interact with the world around us. He instils in us not just physics knowledge, but a passion for love of learning, a thirst for discovery, and a belief in our own potential to make a difference. This approach stimulates to Love the subject, physics and leads me to achieve several milestones in my life like many of his students.

Beyond his infectious positivity, what truly sets Professor Kunaratnam apart is his unwavering belief in his students. He sees potential where others might see limitations and encourages us to reach beyond what we thought possible. I still remember the countless times he stayed back after class, patiently explaining a concept until every student grasped it, or the encouraging notes he left on our assignments, reminding us of our capabilities even in moments of doubt.

He taught us many subjects areas in Physics – Modern Physics, Classical Mechanics, Quantum Mechanics, General Relativity, Advanced Electro Magnetic Theory. Those days it was chalk and board method of teaching. He very rarely looked at handwritten notes to explain the subject or wrote the notes on the board. On many occasions he came to the classroom without any handwritten notes. With an infectious enthusiasm that radiated from every lesson, he embodied the essence of a true educator who wholeheartedly loved the subject he taught. He rarely looked at students faces whilst teaching and only looked at the board or sideways. From the moment he stepped into the lecture hall, it's evident that he didn't merely teach the subject – he lived and breathed it. But it's not just his knowledge and love to physics that sets him apart. Every lesson was a journey, guided by his genuine love for the subject. He was

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always on punctual to Lectures and waited for students even during his tenure as a Vice Chancellor. But perhaps what truly sets him apart was his unwavering dedication to his students' success. He went above and beyond, offering guidance, encouragement, and mentorship to every student who walked through his door even his busy schedules as a Vice Chancellor. He was always punctual to send the recommendation letters for higher studies and followed up. I have

noted his unhappiness when I informed him that I am resigning my academic position at University of Jaffna after my PhD, but he never got angry or hated on my decision and told me that "My children are also migrated, and I cannot insist on you to come back". He was one of my best teachers, mentors, referees and the interview panel chair of my first Job.

A true gentleman with integrity, ethics, professionalism, and dedication.

Professor Sarasanandarajah Sivananthan

(Senior Scientist, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Australia, Adjunct Associate Professor, RMIT University, Australia, Mentor Professor, Bharathiar University, India)



Dr. Mahesan's Impact

Dr. Sinnathamby Mahesan, often referred to with respect as “Mahesan sir,” is an academic luminary whose unwavering dedication and remarkable contributions have left an indelible mark on the Computer Science University of Jaffna. His story is one of resilience and determination, embodying the spirit of a true leader who navigated through challenging times with grace and tenacity. During the turbulent years of the Sri Lankan civil war, Dr. S. Mahesan was a beacon of hope for the University of Jaffna's Department of Computer Science. At a time when the academic landscape was riddled with uncertainty and adversity, he stood as the sole academic staff member in the department. His commitment and leadership were instrumental in preserving the department, which could be likened to a ship battling a fierce storm in the middle of the ocean. He was the captain who steered the ship to safety and ensured its survival.

Dr. Mahesan's remarkable work and guidance didn't stop there. His enduring legacy is seen in the success and accomplishments of his students, who have spread across the world, becoming researchers, innovators, engineers, professors, lecturers, teachers,

AI experts, software developers, designers, and programmers. He nurtured and mentored a generation of computer scientists, instilling in them not only the technical knowledge but also the values of resilience, hard work, and excellence.

Today, the Department of Computer Science at the University of Jaffna stands as a testament to Dr. S. Mahesan's enduring impact. It boasts a state-of-the-art building and a distinguished Department, including two professors, nine senior lecturers, and three lecturers. This transformation from a one-person department to a thriving hub of computer science education and research is a testament to his vision and tireless efforts. Dr. S. Mahesan's journey is a story of inspiration, reminding us that even in the most challenging circumstances, individuals with unwavering determination and a passion for education can transform adversity into opportunity. His contributions to academia, particularly in the field of Computer Science, continue to ripple through time, as his students go on to make their own significant contributions to the world of technology and innovation. Dr. S. Mahesan is a true role model, demonstrating the power of education and mentorship in shaping the future.

Dr. Shan Suganthan
(Senior ML Engineer & Tech Lead at De Beers Group, UK)

Early Days at the University of Jaffna

The University of Jaffna, then known as University of Sri Lanka, Jaffna campus was established in 1974, during a time when media standardization and district quota systems were prominent. These factors are believed to have contributed to the civil war. Nevertheless, founding a university in Jaffna was a positive step. Instead of constructing new buildings, the government repurposed Parameswara College, a boys' school founded by Ramanathan, and Jaffna College, established by American missionaries, to create the university.

My experience at the university, particularly within the science faculty, offers a glimpse into its history. I was part of the second batch of science students who began their studies in 1975. Unlike the first batch, which only had Mathematics and Statistics courses, we were the first batch of Physical Science students. For the initial two years, we used the laboratories at Jaffna College. The arts faculty and the vice chancellor's offices were located at Parameswara College in Thirunelvely. The first president of the Jaffna Campus was Prof. K. Kailasapathy, followed by Prof. S. Vithiananthan. In 1979, the Jaffna Campus was elevated to the status of the University of Jaffna.

As pioneer students in the science faculty, our batch owes much to the professors who came from the universities in Colombo and Peradeniya: Prof. P. Kanagasabapathy (Mathematics), Prof. K. Kunaratnam (Physics), Prof. S. Mageswaran (Chemistry), Prof. K. Theivendirajah (Botany), and Prof. K. Ganeshalingam (Zoology). In 1977, when our batch was in the second year Prof. P. Kanagasabapathy passed away suddenly and Prof. V. Tharmaratnam (Mathematics) succeeded him. While I have not named the lecturers, their contributions were equally significant in establishing the new university.

Our batch included Sinhala medium students as well. We started at the University of Jaffna three Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

months later than other universities. The lecturers suggested that we could finish the academic year early by adding one extra lecture per week. All the students agreed, and we completed the academic year in nine months. However, in the second academic year, numerous incidents led to the university being closed multiple times. The August 1977 anti-Tamil pogrom caused a prolonged closure, extending the second academic year to one and a half years.

The Sinhala medium students who returned home during the violence did not come back, continuing their studies at Thurstan College in Colombo as part of the University of Jaffna. Tamil medium students from Colombo and Peradeniya returned despite being affected by the violence. This period marked the beginning of the civil war, as the country's leaders failed to address the issues at hand, allowing them to fester.

After two years at the Jaffna College premises, we moved to Thirunelvely. The only new building at the time was the current botany building, which housed the Botany, Zoology, and Chemistry departments. The Physics department operated from the current arts common room until the construction of the new physics building, which we moved into during my special degree studies.

Upon completing my degree in 1980, I served as an assistant lecturer in the Physics department until 1982. During this time, I witnessed the destruction of the Jaffna library. In 1982, I left for North America for postgraduate studies and returned as a senior lecturer in Physics. This move allowed me to avoid the civil war during its initial intense period. When I returned in 1989, the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) was in control of Jaffna. Despite being a lecturer, there was no immunity from the random roundups and checks. Prof. A. Thurairajah had just succeeded Prof. S. Vithyananthan as the Vice Chancellor.



In June 1990, hostilities resumed between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE. From 1990 to 1995, life in the Northern and parts of the Eastern provinces was marked by scarcity of modern necessities such as fuel, electricity, plastics, metals, certain medicines, and food items, as well as aerial bombings and shelling by the Sri Lankan armed forces. While the university premises were spared from bombings and shelling, the surrounding areas were not. Despite these challenges, the university continued to function, producing many notable students who are now professors and lecturers at the university. I left the country in mid-1994, but I deeply respect the staff who persevered until 2009,

enduring multiple displacements, suffering, and political interference.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the University of Jaffna, it is important to remember these challenging times. Despite the civil war, the university has progressed along with the rest of the world, largely due to the advent of the internet. However, I wonder if current students are fully utilizing the internet's potential. Historically, Jaffna has been an educational hub for people from all over Sri Lanka due to its early development of educational institutions. My best wishes for the University of Jaffna to achieve such glory again.

Dr. Sabaratnasingam Gnanarajan

Consultant at Kinaltek Pty Ltd,

Former CSIRO Research Scientist Sydney, Australia

பல்கலைக்கழக வாழ்வு - கற்றதும் பெற்றதும்

கல்வியில் தனக்கென ஒரு இடத்தை வகிக்கும் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் உள்ள அனேகமான மாணவர்களுக்கு பல்கலைக் கழகம் புகுவது என்பது ஒரு நீண்ட கனவு. சராசரி இளைஞனாக என்னுள்ளும் அது விதைக்கப் பட்டிருந்தது. பகீரத பிரயத்தனத்தின் பின்னர் அந்த கனவு நிறைவேறியது. அப்போதெல்லாம் நாட்டில் நிலவிய அசாதாரண நிலைமையினால் உயர்தரம் எடுத்த பின்னர் பல்கலைக்கழகம் புக தகுதி பெற்றவர்கள், பல்கலை கழக கல்வியை தொடங்குவதற்கு ஏறத்தாழ ஒரு வருடம் காத்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

தூரத்திலிருந்து பல்கலைக் கழகத்திற்கு வருகின்ற மாணவர்கள் பெரும்பாலும் அயலினுள்ள வீடுகளில் வாடகைக்கு ஒரு அறையை எடுத்து தங்கி இருந்து தமது கற்கையை மேற்கொள்வர். நானும் அப்படித்தான் ஒரு வீட்டில் தங்கியிருந்து படிப்பதற்கான ஏற்பாட்டை என் நண்பராக இருக்கும் ஒரு ளநெழைச ஏற்படுத்திக் கொடுத்தார்.

எனது கஷ்டகாலம் அநேகமாக முதலாவது விரிவுரை Prof. Rev. Fr. G.F.Rajendram இனுடையது. அவர் ஒரு போதகராக இருப்பதனால் Father என்றே மாணவர்கள் அவரை அழைப்பார்கள். திங்கள் கிழமைகளில் வீட்டிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு bus பிடித்து வரவேண்டும். (திங்கள் வந்து room இல் தங்கி வெள்ளி திரும்புவது வழமை). பஸ் சற்றுத் தாமதமாகினால் முதலாவது விரிவுரை தவற விடப்பட்டு விடும். இவ்வாறு அநேகமாக தவற விடப்படும் விரிவுரை father இனுடையதாகத்தான் இருக்கும். அவர் விரிவுரை தொடங்கும் போது வாசல் கதவை மூடி விட்டுத்தான் ஆரம்பிப்பார். இதனால் late ஆக வரும் மாணவர்கள் உள்ளே செல்லத் தயங்கி, அந்த விரிவுரைகளை தவற விடுவது வழமை. மாணவர்களுக்கு நேர முகாமைத்துவத்தை கற்பிப்பது அவருடைய நோக்கமாக இருந்திருக்கலாம்.

“இன்னும் கொஞ்சம் நேரத்தோடை எழுப்பி சாப்பாடு தந்தால் நான் father இன் விரிவுரைகளை தவற விடாமல் போகலாம்” என்று என் அம்மாவிடம் சொன்னேன். பாதிரியார்கள் தானே சொல்கிறார்கள் “தட்டுங்கள் திறக்கப் படும்” என்று, “நீ கதவை தட்டு அவர் திறப்பார்” என்று அம்மாவின் idea. அட இதுகூட நல்லாத்தான் இருக்கு. அடுத்தமுறை அமுல் படுத்தலாம் என்று Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

நினைத்தேன். அதற்கான சந்தர்ப்பமும் ஒரு முறை வந்தது. “பர மண்டலத்தில் இருக்கும் பிதாவே இந்த பாவியை மன்னிப்பாயாக” என்று நினைத்தபடி கதவை மெதுவாக தட்டுகிறேன். மெல்லத் திறந்தது கதவு. பிதா (Father) என்னை மன்னித்தார். தலையை குனிந்தபடி excuse me sir என்று மெதுவான குரலில் முனகிவிட்டு உள்ளே நுழைகிறேன். Father எதுவுமே சொல்லவில்லை. பெரியவர்கள் எப்போதுமே பெரியவர்கள் தான். சக மாணவர்கள் ஆச்சரியமாக என்னை பார்க்கிறார்கள்.

Father ராஜேந்திரம் விரிவுரை நடத்தும் பாணியே தனி. அவரிடம் இருந்து கற்பதற்கு நிறையவே இருந்தது, நேரக் கட்டுப்பாடு, மொழி ஆளுமை, விரிவுரைகளுக்கு தேவையான திட்டமிடல், அதனை வெளிப்படுத்தும் திறன் என பல இலத்தீன் மொழியில் கூட புலமை. தமிழ் உச்சரிப்பு தான் சில இடங்களில் தடுமாறும். தாவரங்கள் என்பதனை தாவரங்கள் என்று சொல்லுவார். நாம் எல்லாம் அதனை சொல்லி சொல்லி சிரிப்போம். தனக்கு தேவையான chalk, duster இன்ன பிற எல்லாம் தானே தனது office bag இனுள் கொண்டு வருவார். அந்த bag ஐ மேசைமீது வைத்து, எல்லாவற்றையும் வெளியில் எடுத்து வைப்பார். Black board ஐ துடைப்பார். மாணவர்களை ஒரு தடவை பார்ப்பார். நுழை வாசலுக்கு எதிர் புறம் உள்ள யன்னல்களை திறப்பார். நேரத்தை ஒருதடவை பார்த்துக் கொள்வார். அடுத்தது என்ன நடக்கும் என்று எமக்கு எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். மாதா கோவில் பெரிய கதவு (entrance door of the lecture hall) பூட்டப்படும். பூசை (lecture) ஆரம்பமாகும்.

பல்கலைக்கழகம் என்றால் நல்ல பம்பலாக இருக்கும். ஆண்களும் பெண்களும் சேர்ந்து பேசிக் கதைச்சு சிரிச்சு ஒரே கொண்டாட்டம் தான் என்ற மாதிரியான ஒரு கதையை தான் கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன். ஆனால் இங்கு வந்து பார்த்தால் அப்படியாக ஒன்றும் தெரியவில்லை. காலையில் 8 மணி தொடக்கம் 5 மணி வரை மாறி மாறி வகுப்பு. Zoology முடிய chemistry lecture. அங்கிருந்து இங்கை ஓட வேண்டும். அது முடிய botany lecture. இங்கிருந்து மீண்டும் அங்கு. Botany முடிய chemistry practical. மீண்டும் அங்கிருந்து இங்கு ஓட்டம். பேராசிரியர்களுக்கு நிறைய சம்பளம் என்று

கேள்விப் பட்டிருக்கிறேன். அதுக்காக இப்படியா? கலைச்சுக் கலைச்சு படிப்பித்தார்கள்.

Chemistry practical இற்காக செல்கிறேன். அப்பொழுதுதான் chemistry department இற்காக அந்தக் கட்டடம் கட்டும் வேலைகள் நடந்து கொண்டிருந்தது. Ground floor மட்டும் பாவனையில் இருக்க மற்றைய தளங்கள் கட்டுமான நிலையில் இருந்தன. இரு ஆய்வு கூடங்கள் மட்டுமே அனைத்து மாணவர்களின் பாவனைக்கு இருந்ததாக ஞாபகம். முதலாம் வருட மாணவர்களால் ஒரு ஆய்வு கூடம் நிரம்பி வழிகிறது. Tip-top ஆன உடையுடன் shoe வும் அணிந்தபடி ஒரு இளைஞர் அங்கும் இங்குமாக ஓடித்திருந்து அந்த ஆய்வு கூட செய்முறைக்கான ஆயத்தங்களை செய்கிறார். அவர்தான் அங்கு Technical Officer ஆக இருந்த ஞானி என்று அழைக்கப்படுகின்ற ஞானகுமாரன் என்று பின்னர் அறிந்து கொண்டேன். இவ்விடத்தில் அந்த இளைஞரையும் நினைவு படுத்தித்தான் ஆக வேண்டும். மாணவர்களிடத்தில் அதிக கரிசனை உள்ளவர். மிக அன்பாகவும், நட்பாகவும் பழக கூடியவர். பின்னாளில் என் நண்பராகியவர். தற்போது இவ்வுலகை விட்டே சென்று விட்டார்.

Chemistry practical Lab நிரம்பி வழிகிறது. மதுரை மீனாட்சி அம்மன் போன்று வெள்ளை வெளேரென ஒரு அழகிய madam, கையிலே குறிப்பு எழுதப் பட்ட ஓரிரு foolscap paper உடன் நுழைகின்றா. ஒரு சாதாரண சேலை. எவ்வித அலங்காரமும் இல்லை. கையிலே ஒரு கைக் கடிக்காரம். அது வழமைக்கு மாறாக மறு பக்கமாக கட்டப் பட்டிருந்தது. அதாவது நேரம் பார்ப்பதாக இருந்தால் உள்ளங்கை பக்கம் தான் பார்க்க வேண்டும். மிக சிறந்த கல்விமான் என்பது அவரது தோற்றத்திலேயே தெரிகிறது. பேராசிரியை திருமதி மகேஸ்வரன் என்று சொன்னார்கள். எம்மையெல்லாம் பார்த்து விட்டு அங்கே உள்ள மற்றைய ஊழியர்களுடன் கதைத்து விட்டு போய் விட்டார். அவர் எமக்கு வகுப்பு எடுப்பதாக இல்லை.

Bio Science படித்தவன் என்ற படியால் மறக்க முடியாத zoology practical பற்றியும் சொல்லித்தானே ஆகவேண்டும். Zoology lab இனுள் போகிறேன். ஒரு வித்தியாசமான மணம் வருகிறது. மீன் குஞ்சுகள், பூனைகள் யானைகள் எல்லாத்தையும் குளோரோபாரம் இற்குள் போட்டு அடைச்சு வைத்திருப்பதால் வருகின்ற வாடை. போக போக அந்த வாடை பழகி விட்டதனால் பின்னர் அந்த மணத்தை உணர முடியவில்லை.

7 அல்லது 8 பெரிய மேசைகள் (lab bench). அதில் வரிசையாக அடுக்கப் பட்ட ஒளி நுணுக்கு காட்டி. ஒவ்வொரு bench இற்கு அருகிலும் ராஜி மிஸ், ரஜனி மிஸ், முத்து மிஸ் அந்த மிஸ் இந்த மிஸ் என்று அழகிய demonstrators அணி வகுத்து நிற்கிறார்கள். ஓ... அப்ப zoology நல்லா படிக்கலாம் என்று நினைத்துக் கொண்டேன். ஏனென்றால் வயது அப்படி.

நுணுக்குக் காட்டியினுள் ஒரு கம்பி தெரிகிறது. அதை அசைத்து அசைத்து அங்க அது தெரியுதோ, இங்க இது தெரியுதோ (ஏதோ Golgi, lysosome, ribosome என்றெல்லாம் சொன்னார்கள்) என்று காட்டினார்கள். சத்தியமாக எனக்கு அந்த கம்பியை தவிர வேறு எதுவுமே தெரியவில்லை. யாரையும் குறை சொல்வதாக நினைக்க வேண்டாம், எனது நிலைமை அப்படித்தான் இருந்தது. ஆனால் எனக்கு partner ஆக இருந்தவன் (பின்னாளில் எனது மிக மிக நெருங்கிய நண்பன்) "ஓம் மிஸ் ஓம் மிஸ்" என்று சொல்லிக் கொண்டே இருந்தான். எனக்கு மட்டும் தான் தெரியவில்லைப் போலும் என்று நினைத்து நானும் தெரிவதை போலவே தலையைத் தலையை ஆட்டினேன். ஒருவாறு அந்த practical முடிந்தது பெரும் நிம்மதியாக இருந்தது. ஆனால் அதன் பின்னர் தான் ஒரு பிரளயமே இருக்கிறது என்பது அப்போது தெரியாமல் போய் விட்டது.

அன்றைக்கு பார்த்த எல்லாத்தையும் படமாகக் கீறி அதுக்கு கீழே அது பற்றி எழுத வேண்டுமாம். நான் என்னத்தையும் பார்த்திருந்தால் தானே. எனக்கு தான் எதுவுமே தெரியவில்லையே. பிறகு என்னத்தை கீறுறது. என்னத்தை எழுதுறது. எதுக்கும் தலையைத் தலையை ஆட்டின என்ற partner ஐ கண்டு என்ன செய்வது என்று கேட்டேன். நான் எல்லாம் கீறி விட்டேன். நீயும் இதை பார்த்துக் கீறு என்று ஒரு record book ஐ காட்டினான். அது மூன்று வருடங்களுக்கு முன்னர் படித்த ஒரு சீனியர் இன் record book. அந்த சீனியர் இற்கு மட்டும் எப்படி இவ்வளவு clear ஆக அந்த நுணுக்குக் காட்டிக்குள்ளால் தெரிஞ்சது என்று எனக்கு ஒரே ஆச்சரியம். என்ற partner இடமே கேட்டேன். "உனக்கு இப்படியெல்லாம் நுணுக்கு காடிக்குள்ளால் தெரிஞ்சுதோ" என்று. "ஏன் எனெக்கென ஞானக் கண்ணே, எனக்கும் ஒன்றும் தெரியவில்லை" என்றான். "அப்ப தலையை தலையை ஆட்டினாய்" என்றேன். "ஏன் நான் மட்டுமே ஆட்டினான். எல்லாரும் தானே ஆட்டினவங்கள்" என்றான். எனக்கு கொஞ்சம் ஆறுதலாக இருந்தது. அப்ப இது (நுணுக்கு காட்டியில் ஏதும் தெரியாதது) எனக்கு மட்டும் உள்ள பிரச்சினை இல்லை. இது ஒரு சர்வதேச பிரச்சனை.

Senior இற்கு மட்டும் எப்படி இவ்வளவு தெளிவா தெரிஞ்சது? என்ற எனது சந்தேகத்தை partner இடம் கேட்டேன். Partner சொன்னான் “நானும் அவரிடம் கேட்டனான், அவரும் அவரை விட இரண்டு வருடம் சீனியராக படிச்சவரின் record book ஐ பார்த்துத் தான் கீறினவராம்”, அப்ப, 1974ம் ஆண்டு முதன் முதலில் யாழ்ப்பாண பல்கலைக் கழகம் தொடங்கியபோது கீறின படங்கள் தான் தொடர்ச்சியாக வருகிறது போலும் என்று நினைத்துக் கொண்டேன். (அதீத கற்பனை). எது எப்படியோ எனது பிரச்சினைக்கு ஒரு தீர்வு கிடைத்தது சந்தோசம். பிறகென்ன அதே படத்தை பார்த்துக் கீறினேன். கீழே உள்ள குறிப்பை அப்படியே எழுதாமல் வசனங்களை முன்னுக்கு பின் மாற்றி எழுதி (copy அடித்தது தெரியாமல் இருக்கட்டும் என்கின்ற நல்ல? நோக்கில்) ஒப்படைத்தேன்.

அடுத்த practical களுக்கு போக முன் முதல் கிழமை நடந்த practical record book சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டு sign வாங்கப் படவேண்டும் என்பது எழுதப்படாத சட்டம். எனவே நான் சமர்ப்பித்த record book sign பண்ணப் பட்டுள்ளதா என்ற ஆவலுடன் எனது record book இனை வாங்கிப் பார்க்கிறேன். எல்லாப் படங்களுக்கும் Redraw என்று போடப் பட்டிருந்தது. ஏன் என்ற விடை தெரியாத வினா இன்னும் என்மனதில் இருந்து கொண்டே இருக்கிறது.

காலச் சக்கரம் சுழன்றது. வருட இறுதியில் தான் முன்னர் பரீட்சை நடைபெற்றது. நான் முதலாம் ஆண்டில் இருக்கையில் அது semester முறையான பரீட்சையாக மாற்ற நிர்வாகம் முடிவெடுக்கிறது. மாணவர்கள் பலர் அதற்கு எதிரானவர்களாக இருந்தனர். அப்போது விஞ்ஞான பீடாதிபதியாக பேராசிரியர் குணரத்தினம் இருந்தார். உயர்ந்த திடகாத்திரமான, விறைப்பான மனிதர். பரீட்சைகளை ஒத்திப் போடுவதற்காக மாணவர்கள் மாணவர் தலைவரின் தலைமையில் பேச்சு வார்த்தை நடத்த போகின்றனர். என்ன என்பது போல விறைப்பாக பார்க்கின்றார். தலைவர் விலாவாரியாக மாணவர்கள் பக்கத்துக்கு கோரிக் கைகளையும் அதற்கான விளக்கங்களையும் நியாயப் பாடுகளையும் விளக்குகிறார். பேராசிரியர் கதிரையை விட்டு எழுந்தார். “நீர் வந்து இந்தக் கதிரையில் இரும் நான் அங்கு நிற்கிறேன்” என்கிறார் சற்று அலட்சியமாக. “இது ஒன்றும் நான் எடுத்த முடிவு இல்லை. பல்கலை கழக நிர்வாகம் பல மாதங்களாக விவாத்தித்து எடுத்த முடிவு. சும்மா இதில நின்று நேரத்தை வீணாக்காமல் போய் படித்து சோதனை எழுதுற வேலையைப் பாருங்கோ”

என்று கட்டளை இடுகிறார். மேலதிகமாக ஒன்றையும் சொன்னார் “எனக்குத் தெரிந்த பலர் இப்படித்தான் சோதனையை பிற்போடு என்று காலையில் போய் நிர்வாகத்திற்கு முன்னால் கூச்சல் போட்டுட்டு வீட்டுக்கு வந்து படிக்கிறார்கள். நீங்களும் அப்படித்தான் செய்கிறீர்கள் என்று தெரியும், போங்கோ, போங்கோ” என்று மிக சாதாரணமாக நிலைமையை கையாண்டார். ஒரு தளம்பல், ஒரு பதட்டம், ஒரு கோபம் எதுவுமே அவரிடம் இருக்கவில்லை. அந்த அனுபவ முதிர்ச்சி அப்போது விளங்கவில்லை. இப்போது நினைக்க ஆச்சரியமாக இருக்கிறது.

இதனிடையே வடமராட்சியை புலிகளிடமிருந்து கைப்பற்றும் நோக்குடன் படையினர் பெரும் எடுப்புடன் புறப்படுகிறார்கள்.”Operation Liberation” நாட்டின் தலைவிதியையே மாற்றிப் போட்டது. படையினரின் முழுக் கட்டுப்பாட்டில் வருகிறது வடமராட்சி. என் போன்ற வடமராட்சி மாணவர்களுக்கும், அவர் தம் குடும்பத்தாருக்கும் இடையிலான தொடர்பாடல் அற்று போகின்றது. வடமராட்சியை சேர்ந்த மாணவர்கள் எல்லோர் முகத்திலும் தம் சொந்தங்களுக்கு என்ன நடந்ததோ என்ற ஏக்கமும் அச்சமும். இந்த களேபரத்தில் திட்டமிடப்பட்டிருந்த பரீட்சைகள் பிற்போடப் பட்டது. வடமராட்சி படையினரிடமும், ஏனைய பகுதிகள் புலிகளிடம் இருந்த படியே நிலைமை வழமைக்கு திரும்பியது.

நீண்ட ஒரு குழப்பத்தின் பின்னர் பரீட்சைகள் இன்றியே இரண்டாம் தவணை ஆரம்பமானது என நினைக்கின்றேன். இம்முறை தாவரவியல் practical செய்யப் போகிறோம். ஆய்வுகூட அமைப்பு ஏறத்தாழ zoology lab போன்று இருக்கிறது. ஆனால் அந்த குளோரோபோர்ம் மணம் இல்லை. ஒரு சாந்தமான சூழல் தெரிகிறது. ஒரு அழகான சிரிப்புடன், ஸ்திரிக்கை செய்யப்பட shirt உம் pants உம் அணிந்து கொஞ்சம் style ஆன, ஒரு பேராசிரியர் வருகின்ற மாணவர்களை நோட்டம் விட்டபடி வாசல் புறமாக நிற்கிறார். எல்லோரும் வந்து சேர்ந்தபின்னர் அவர் முன் புறம் உள்ள blackboard இன் முன் வந்து நின்று கொண்டு “Good Morning” என்று ஒரு வித style ஆகவே ஆரம்பிக்கிறார். அவரிடம் ஒருவித கவர்ச்சி இருந்தது. (ஒருவேளை ரஜினிகாந்த் ரசிகராக இருந்திருப்பாரோ என்னவோ). பேசப் பேச ஒரு ஆளுமை தெரிந்தது. “நாங்கள் இங்கை என்னத்தை சொல்லுகிறோம், ஒவ்வொன்றையும் ஏன் செய்கின்றோம் என்பதனை நன்கு விளங்கி விட்டு practical ஐ ஆரம்பிக்க

வேண்டும். ஏதும் விளங்கவில்லை என்றால் எங்களிடம் கேளுங்கள். அதுக்காகத் தான் நானும் (demonstrators களை கையால் காட்டியபடி) இவர்களும் நிற்கிறோம். விளங்கிப் படியுங்கள். சும்மா படம் கீற்று வேலையெல்லாம் எனக்கு வேண்டாம்” என்கிறார். கடைசியாக அவர் சொன்ன அந்த வார்த்தையில் (படம் கீறும் வேலை பற்றி) எனக்கு உச்சி குளிர்ந்தது. Botany ஐ அதிகமானோர் காதல் கொள்ளக் காரணமாக இருந்த அந்த பேராசிரியர் யார்? அவர்தான் பேராசிரியர் தெய்வேந்திரராஜா. அங்கு நின்ற demos ம் தாவரப் படிணிகள் போன்றே அமைதியானவர்களாக இருந்தார்கள். ஒரு friendly யான சூழல் இருந்தது என்பது என்னவோ உண்மைதான். சொன்னால் நம்ப மாட்டீர்கள். அவர்கள் கொடுத்த உற்சாகமோ என்னவோ, அன்று இரவே எனது record book வேலைகள் முடிந்து விட்டது. அடுத்த நாளே அதை திருத்துவதற்கு கொடுத்தும் விட்டேன். ஆச்சரியம் என்னவென்றால் அனைத்துமே சரி போடப்பட்டு demo வினால் கையொப்பமிடப்பட்டிருந்தது.

இரசாயனவியல் என்றாலே எல்லாத்தையும் பாடமாக்க வேண்டும் என்பது ஒரு தவறான எண்ணம். அதற்குள்ளும் ஒரு சூட்சுமம் இருக்கின்றது. அடிப்படையை சரியாக புரிந்து கொண்டால், இரசாயனவியல் போன்ற ஈஸியான interesting ஆன பாடம் எதுவுமில்லை. அன்றும் வழமை போல இரசாயனவியல் விரிவுரை மண்டபம் நிறைந்து வழிந்தது. ஆண்களும் பெண்களுமாக ஏறத்தாழ எண்பது மாணவர்கள் அந்த மண்டபத்தில் விரிவுரைக்காகக் காத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஒவ்வொருவரும் தங்கள் அருகில் இருப்பவர்களுடன் கதைத்துக் கொண்டிருப்பதால் ஒருவித இரைச்சல் இருந்து கொண்டே இருந்தது. முன்பக்கமாக ஒரு மேடை இருந்தது. அதில் தான் விரிவுரையாளர் நின்று விரிவுரைகள் நடத்துவார். அதன் பின்னே உள்ள சுவரில் எழுதுவதற்குரிய கரும் பலகையும் அதன் மேலே ஒரு சுவர்க் கடிக்காரமும் டிக் டிக் என்ற ஒலியுடன் சுற்றிக் கொண்டிருக்கும். தலைக்கு மேலே எண்ணிலடங்காத மின்விசிறிகள் சுற்றிக் கொண்டே இருக்கும். கற்பதற்குரிய சூழலை அந்தக் கட்டிடமே உருவாக்கியது.

திடீரென அனைத்து சலசலப்பும் ஓய்கிறது. திரும்பிப் பார்க்கிறேன். பேராசிரியர் மகேஸ்வரன் வருகிறார். ஒரு விரைவு நடையுடன் வந்து மேடையில் ஏறுகிறார். அனைத்து சத்தங்களும் அடங்க கடிக்காரத்தின் டிக் டிக் ஒலி மட்டும் இப்போது கேட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கிறது. அதன் சிறிய முள் ஒன்பதிலும் பெரிய முள் சரியாக

பன்னிரண்டிலும் நிற்கிறது. ஒரு பீடத்தின் தலைவராக, அதன் முழுநேர நிர்வாகியாக, மாணவ ஆலோசகராக, பேரவையினதும், மூதவையினதும் உறுப்பினராக, இன்னும் எத்தனையோ இடையறாத பணிகளுக்கு மத்தியிலும் விரிவுரைகளுக்கு நேரம் தவறாமல் வருவதில் பேராசிரியர் மகேஸ்வரனுக்கு இணையாக எவருமே இல்லை என்றுதான் நினைக்கிறேன். Reaction Mechanism of Carbonyl Compounds என்று எழுதி விட்டு தொடங்குகிறார். ஒன்றன் பின் ஒன்றாக இலக்கமிட்டு அதனை கற்பதற்குத் தேவையான பாடப் புத்தகத்தின் பெயர்களையும் அதனை எழுதியவர்களின் பெயரையும் வரிசையாக அடுக்குகிறார். நாங்களும் ஏதோ அதையெல்லாம் நூலகத்தில் இருந்து எடுத்து படிப்பவர்கள் போல எழுதுகிறோம்.

என்னவெல்லாம் படிக்கப் போகின்றோம் என்பதனை சொல்லிக் கொண்டே போகிறார். Micheal, Hoffman, Claisen என்று முன்னை பின்னை கேள்விப் படாதவர்களின் பெயரெல்லாம் சொல்கிறார். அதன் பின் ஒவ்வொன்றாக தனித்தனியே கற்பிக்கத் தொடங்குகிறார். அருமையான கற்பித்தல் முறைமை. இவரிடம் படித்து சேதன இரசாயனம் விளங்கவில்லை என்றால் வேறு எவரிடம் படித்தாலும் விளங்காது என்று உணர்கிறேன். ஆவலைத் தூண்டுகிற கற்பித்தல்.

எல்லாம் நல்லாத்தான் இருந்தது. ஆனால் ஒரே ஒரு பிரச்சனை. அடிக்கடி வகுப்பில் கேள்விகள் கேட்பார். அவருக்கு எல்லா மாணவர்களின் பெயரும் அத்துப்படி. கேள்வியை கேட்டு விட்டு யாரிடம் கேட்கலாம் என்று ஒரு முறை வகுப்பை நோட்டம் விடுவார். சகலரும் சற்றுக் குனிந்து வளைந்து மேசைக்குள் தம்மை ஒளிக்க முற்படுகின்றனர். மாறி மாறி ஒவ்வொருவரின் பெயரையும் அழைத்து பதிலை எதிர்பார்ப்பார். பெரும்பாலும் சரியான பதில் கிடைக்காது. இவ்வாறே தொடர்ந்தால் அதிக நேரம் போய்விடும் என்பதும் பேராசிரியருக்குத் தெரியும். யாரிடம் கேட்டால் சரியான பதில் வரும் என்றும் அவருக்குத் தெரியும். அப்படியானவர்களில் ஒருவரின் பெயரை சொல்லி பதிலை எதிர்பார்ப்பார். அதற்குரிய சரியான பதில் கிடைத்ததும் விரிவுரை தொடரும். இப்படித்தான் பேராசிரியர் மகேஸ்வரனின் வகுப்பு போய்க் கொண்டிருக்கும்.

மாணவர்களின் கல்விக்காக மட்டுமின்றி அவர்களின் எதிர்காலம் பற்றியும் சிந்தித்த ஒரு சில ஆசிரியர்களில் பேராசிரியர் மகேஸ்வரன் முதன்மையானவர். ஆங்கில அறிவு மாணவர்களுக்கு அவசியம் என்பதைப் பல

இடங்களிலும் சுட்டிக் காட்டியவர். ஆனால் அந்த நேரத்தில் அதனை விளங்கிக் கொள்ளும் நிலையில் நாமிருக்கவில்லை. ஏனென்றால் வயது அப்படி. குறிப்பாக நாங்கள் இரசாயன விசேட கற்கை (chemistry special) மேற்கொள்ளும் போது அந்த 13 மாணவர்களுக்காகவும் விசேட ஆங்கில வகுப்புகளை ஒழுங்கு செய்திருந்தார். அதற்கு என்றொரு புத்தகம் திணைக்கள தலைவரின் அலுவலகத்தில் இருக்கும். அதனை எடுத்து வந்து படிப்பிப்பார்கள். காலையிலிருந்து மாலை வரை வகுப்புகள் நடை பெறுவதால் சிறிது களைப்பாகத்தான் இருக்கும். ஆங்கில வகுப்பைக் cut அடித்தால் இடையில் ஒரு சிறு break வரும். எனவே நான் இடைக்கிடை ஆங்கில வகுப்பைக் cut அடிப்பது வழமை. அது என்னவோ தெரியவில்லை, cut அடித்து விட்டு மேலே இருந்து கீழே வரும்போது முதலில் தெரிபவர் பேராசிரியர் மகேஸ்வரனாகத்தான் இருக்கும். “எங்க போறீர்?” ஏதாவதொரு பொய் சொல்லத்தானே வேண்டும். “தண்ணி குடிக்க ளைச”. அவருக்கு தெரியாததா? “அதெல்லாம்பிறகு குடிக்கலாம், office இற்கு போய் புத்தகத்தை எடுத்துக் கொண்டு class க்குப் போய் பார்க்கலாம்” என்கிறார். வேறு வழியில்லை. திரும்ப வகுப்பு நோக்கி போகிறேன். இப்படித்தான், பல்கலை கழகம் என்றாலும் மாணவர் நலனுக்காகப்

பாடசாலை மாணவர்கள் போலவே நடத்துவார்.

நான் அறிந்தவரை, தனது சொந்த முயற்சியால் மாணவர்களுக்குப் புலமைப் பரிசுடன் PhD செய்வதற்காக இங்கிலாந்திலே உள்ள பல்கலைக்கழகம் ஒன்றில் அனுமதி எடுத்துக் கொடுத்து அவர்கள் தங்கள் பட்ட மேற்படிப்பு முடிப்பதற்கும் உதவி செய்தவர் பேராசிரியர் மகேஸ்வரன் மட்டுமாகத்தான் இருப்பார். யாழ்ப்பாண மாணவர்களாலும், சமூகத்தாலும் மறக்கப்பட முடியாத மாமனிதர். நான் இரசாயனவியலில் காதல் கொள்ள இரண்டாவது காரணமானவர். என் எதிர் காலத்தை அதனை நோக்கித் திருப்பியவர்களில் முதன்மை ஆனவர்.

யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக் கழகம் தனது ஐம்பதாவது அகவையை அடையும் நேரம் பேராசிரியர் மகேஸ்வரன், பேராசிரியை திருமதி. மகேஸ்வரன், பேராசிரியர் தெய்வேந்திரராஜா, பேராசிரியர் குணரத்தினம், பேராசிரியர் கணேசலிங்கம் போன்றோரின் சேவையினையும் ஏனைய பேராசிரியர்கள், விரிவுரையாளர்கள், தோளோடு தோள் நின்ற கல்விசாரா உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் அனைவரினதும் சேவையினையும் ஒரு முறை மீட்டுப் பார்த்து நாம் பெருமை கொள்வோம்.

கலாநிதி கந்தசாமி வாசீசர்
(Scientist, Research and Development Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., Whitby,
Ontario, Canada)



ஆறாவது பௌதிகவியல் விஞ்ஞான அணியின் எண்ணப்பகிர்வு மடல்

6ஆவது பௌதிகவியல் விஞ்ஞானப் பிரிவு 1979 - 1982/1983

கற்றது கைம்மண்ணளவு
கல்லாதது உலகளவு” - ஓளவையார்

யாழ்ப்பாண பல்கலைக்கழக விஞ்ஞான பீடம், தற்போது ஐம்பது ஆண்டுகளைப் பூர்த்தி செய்து, பொன்விழாவை கொண்டாடும் இத்தருணத்தில், உலகெங்கும் பரந்து வாழும் பௌதிக விஞ்ஞான ஆறாம் வருட பிரிவு பழைய மாணவ மாணவிகளாகிய நாமும், ஏனைய 49 வருட பிரிவு சோதரர்களாகிய உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் கலந்து சிறப்பித்து, வாழ்த்தி அகமகிழ்வு கொள்கிறோம்.

“கேடில் விழுச்செல்வம் கல்வி ஒருவற்கு
மாடல்ல மற்றையவை”

செல்வங்களில் எல்லாம் மேன்மையான கல்விச்செல்வத்தை எமக்கெல்லாம் வாரி வழங்கிய எம் பேராசான்கள் அனைவருக்கும் முதற்கண் சிரம்தாழ்த்தி நன்றி கூறுகிறோம்.

காலம்சென்ற பேராசிரியர்கள் குணரத்தினம், பாலன் செல்லையா, மகேஸ்வரன், இராஜேஸ்வரி மற்றும் தர்மரத்தினம், கந்தசாமி, இராமசந்திரன், மல்காடி, மற்றும் சிரேஸ்ட விரிவுரையாளர்கள், விரிவுரையாளர்கள் காலம்சென்ற சிறீஸ்கந்தராஜா, மற்றும் சிறீதரன், குகநேசன், இராமசந்திரன், மகேஸ்வரன், வின்ஸன்லட், வசந்தி, பசுபதி,..... அனைவரையும் நினைவுகூர்ந்து, இந்தப் பொன்விழாவில் சொல்லம்புகளால் பொன்னாடை போர்த்தி கௌரவித்து வணங்கி, எமது காலகட்டத்தில் நடைபெற்ற சில முக்கியமான சம்பவங்களையும், அநுபவங்களையும் கீழே பதிவு செய்து பகிர்ந்து கொள்கிறோம்.

எமது பௌதிக விஞ்ஞான பிரிவு, 1979 ஐப்பசி மாதம் யாழ்ப்பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் கால் பதித்தது. ஆண்கள் 84, பெண்கள் 22 என்றவாறு மொத்தம் 106 மாணவர்கள் அவ்வருடத்தில் உள்வாங்கப்பட்டிருந்தோம். துணைவேந்தர் காலம்சென்ற பேராசிரியர் சு. வித்தியானந்தன் அவர்கள் தனது வரவேற்புரையில், யாழ்ப்பவளாகம் இவ்வாண்டு 1979 முதல் தனித்து

இயங்கும் பல்கலைக்கழகமாக தரமுயர்த்தப்பட்டுள்ளது என்றும், நாம் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் முதலாவது அணி என தெரிவித்து, எதிர்காலத்தில் எங்களிடமிருந்து பல கல்விமான்களை, விஞ்ஞானிகளை, தொழிலதிபர்களை, ஏன் வருங்கால துணைவேந்தர்களையும் இந்த பல்கலைக்கழகம் எதிர்பார்த்து காத்து உள்ளது என உரை நிகழ்த்தினார்.

தற்போதைய துணைவேந்தரும், ஒரு மாணவனாக எமது பிரிவில் அன்று இருந்தார். இந்த உரையை உன்னிப்பாக கேட்டும் இருந்திருப்பார்.

அன்று துணைவேந்தர் விதைத்தார். இன்று எமது 1979ம் ஆண்டு பிரிவு பெரும் விருட்சமாகி பல கலாநிதிகள், வலய கல்வி பணிப்பாளர்கள், அதிபர்கள், விரிவுரையாளர்கள், பல இளைஞர்களுக்கு வேலை வாய்ப்பு அளிக்கும் மென்பொருள் தொழிலதிபர்கள், உலகவங்கி பொருளாதார ஆலோசகர்கள், விற்பன்னர்கள், பொறியியலாளர்கள், முழுநேர இயற்கை விவசாயிகள், பெரும் வணிக நாவாய் தளபதிகள், பிறமொழி வல்லுநர்கள் என பல பரந்து பட்ட துறைகளில் முதன்மை அதிகாரத்துடன் வலம் வருகிறார்கள்.

எமது பிரிவில் சில மாணவர்கள் பொறியியல் பாட நெறி தகுதி வெட்டுப்புள்ளிக்கு மேல் பெற்று இருந்தும், அப்போது நிலவிய இனப்பாகுபாடு, வெறுப்பு அரசியல், மீள அமல்படுத்தப்பட்ட அனுமதி முறை (15% திறமை, 55% மாவட்ட, 30% பின்தங்கிய) காரணங்களாலும், பௌதிக விஞ்ஞான கற்கை நெறிக்கே அவர்கள் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்டார்கள். இதில் கவனிக்கப் பட வேண்டியது அன்று யாழ்ப்பணம் கல்வியில் மேல்நிலை. தமிழ் பாராளுமன்ற உறுப்பினரளால் பாராளுமன்றத்தில் முறையிட்டும் எந்தவித பலனும் இல்லாது, செவிடன் காதில் சங்கூதியது போலவே ஆகியது. இந்த செயல் ஆனது, அன்றைய கால கட்டத்தில் பல இளைஞர்களை ஆத்திரம் அடைய செய்தும், அநீதிக்கு எதிராக போராடவும் வலிந்து தூண்டியது என்பதை மிகவும் வருத்தத்துடன் பதிவிடுகிறோம்.

முதல் இரண்டு ஆண்டுப் பிரிவுகளில், யாழ் வளாகத்தில் படித்த மாணவர்களும், விஷேட சித்தி பெற்று, விரிவுரையாளர்களாக எமக்கு கல்வி புகட்டியதும், கலைப்பீட மாணவிகள் எம்மோடு தூயகணிதம் கற்க முதன்முதலாக செயல்திட்டம் அமுல் படுத்தியமையும் குறிப்பிட தக்கது.

நாம் படித்த காலப்பகுதியில் மாணவர்கள் புகையிரதத்தில் பயணித்து, கொக்குவில் நிலையத்தில் இறங்கி, பின்னர் நடந்து வந்து கல்வி கற்பது வழமையாக இருந்தது. பாதுகாப்பற்ற கடவையில் ஒரு தடவை விபத்து நடந்தது, எமது சக உயிரியல்பீட மாணவியொருவருக்கு கால் துண்டிக்கப்பட்டது போன்ற சம்பவங்களும் நடந்துள்ளன. ஒரு தலை இராகம் வகையான, புகைவண்டிக் காதல் விவகாரங்களும் நடந்து வந்தும் உள்ளன.

எமது மாணவிகள் மீது, வெளிநபர்கள் பகிடிவதை போன்ற செயல்பாடுகளை எடுத்தபோது, மாணவர்கள் அனைவரும் ஒன்று சேர்ந்து பெரும் போராட்டத்தை அந்த தீய சக்திகளுக்கு எதிராக முன்னெடுத்தார்கள். இதன் விளைவாக அந்த பகுதியில் கலவரம் ஏற்பட்டது. மாணவர்கள் பல்கலைக்கழக வளாகத்தினுள் இரண்டு நாட்கள் அடைக்கப்பட்ட நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டது. பல்கலைக்கழக அதிகாரிகள், காவல்துறையினருடன் சேர்ந்து ஒரு சுமுக நிலையை பின்னர் ஏற்படுத்தி இருந்தனர்.

எங்கள் கோரிக்கைகள் நிறைவேறுவதற்காக பல உண்ணாவிரதப் போராட்டங்களை மேற்கொண்டு அதில் வெற்றி கண்ட சந்தர்ப்பங்களும் உண்டு. அன்றைய காலகட்டத்தில் அரசின் எதிரகட்சித் தலைவராக பணியாற்றிய மறைந்த அப்பாபிள்ளை அமிர்தலிங்கம் அவர்கள் வருகை தந்து உறுதிமொழி அளித்ததும், சாகும்வரையான சில உண்ணாவிரதப் போராட்டங்கள் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட வரலாறுகளும் உள்ளன.

பொது நூலகம் எரிக்கப்பட்ட போது அதனை தடுப்பதற்கும் அணைப்பதற்கும், பலர் சேர்ந்து ஒரு அணியாக சென்றோம். ஆயினும் எம்மால் ஒன்றுமே செய்ய முடியாது போனதையும் ஆழ்ந்த வருத்தத்தோடு இங்கு பதிவிடுகிறோம். பின்னர் யாழ்குடாநாட்டில் உள்ள ஒவ்வொரு வீட்டிற்கும் தவறாது சென்று ஆகக் குறைந்தது ஒரு புத்தகமாவது சேகரிப்பதில் ஈடுபட்டு ஒரு ஆறுதல் வெற்றியை அடைந்தோம் என்று தான் கூற முடியும்.

தென் இலங்கையில் இனக்கலவரம் 1983 இல் வெடித்தபோது, பெரும்பயப்பீதியுடன் வடபகுதிக்கு இடம்

பெயர்ந்து வந்தமக்களின் நலனோம்பல் செயற்பாடுகளில் அர்ப்பணிப்புடன் ஈடுபட்டு, அனைத்தையும் இழந்து தமது சொந்த நாட்டிலேயே அநாதையாக்கப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு ஆறுதலாக செயற்பட்டோம்.

மட்டக்களப்புயல்(1978)நிவாரணசெயல்பாடுகளை எமது மூத்த மாணவர்கள் முன்னெடுத்து இருந்தனர். அவர்களோடு நாமும் சேர்ந்து களப்பணியாற்றி, வீடுகள் புனரமைப்பு, உடலுதவி, பொருளாதார உதவி போன்ற சேவைகளை அளித்து வந்தோம். பக்க விளைவாக சில காதல் செயல்பாடுகளும் நடந்து தளத்தை உஷார் படுத்தியமையையும் கூறத் தான் வேண்டும்.

இராமநாதன் மண்டபத்திற்கு முன் உள்ள பிரதேசம் எங்கள் விளையாட்டு மைதானம். அருகிலுள்ள கல் இருக்கைகளும் பரமேஸ்வரன் கோவிலுக்கு அண்மையிலுள்ள தனிமைப்பட்ட இடமும் காதலர்களுக்குரியதாக எழுதப்படாத யாப்பு இருந்தது. மேலும் குடிபானம், உற்சாகபானம் போன்ற திரவங்களால் தாகம் தணிக்கும் தண்ணீர் பந்தலுக்குரிய இடமாகவும் களியாட்ட நிகழ்வுகளின்போது அவை மாற்றமடைந்து வந்ததையும் பலரும் மிகுந்த சிரத்தையுடன் அவதானித்து வந்தும் உள்ளனர்.

ஒருபுறம் கல்வி கற்றலும், பொதுநல சேவை செயல்பாடுகளும் இணையாக நடந்தேறி வந்தன. மறுபுறம் நடந்த சில நகைச்சுவை குறிப்புகளையும் தருவது தவறாகாது என எண்ணுகிறோம். முதலாம் ஆண்டு மாணவர்கள் என்றால், உணவு சாலையில் கவனிப்பு சற்று மந்தமாக தான் இருக்கும். தம்பி, “பால்சொதி ஊத்தவா” என்ற அக்கறையும், “இல்ல நான் நீர் குழாயில் எடுக்கிறன் அண்ணே” என்று நோகாமல் குத்தி காட்டுவதும் உண்டு. கலைப்பீட மாணவிகளை சீண்டுவதும், “படியாத எருமைகள்” என்று அவர்கள் சீறுவதும், “படித்த எருமைகள் உண்டா” என்று மீள்சீண்டுவதுமாக, நாளொரு வண்ணமும் பொழுதொரு மேனியாக நாட்கள் வழிந்தோடின.

இறுதியாக, நாங்கள் பல்கலைக்கழக படிப்பை முடித்து, தோழர் தோழிகளைப் பிரிந்து பறந்து, எந்த ஊரில் எந்த நாட்டில் காண்போமோ என்று, பசுமை நிறைந்த நிலைவுகளோடு சென்றோம். ஆயினும் மீண்டும் இணைந்தோம். போரின் வலி எம்மை மீண்டும் இணைத்தது, பல செயல்பாடுகளை போரினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட மக்களுக்காக, எம்மண்ணின் மைந்தர்களுக்காக, 2017ம் ஆண்டு முதல், முன்னாள் கிளிநொச்சி வலய கல்விப்பணிப்பாளர் மூலமாக

முன்னெடுத்தோம். அவற்றில் சிலவற்றை கீழே பகிர்கிறோம்

- கிளிநொச்சி, முழங்காவில் ம. வி. இல் பத்து அயல் பாடசாலைகள் மாணவர்களுக்கு கற்றல் உபகரணங்கள் வழங்கியமை (2017). முன்னாள் பதில் துணைவேந்தரும் எமது ஆசானுமாகிய பேராசிரியர் கந்தசாமி கலந்து சிறப்பித்தார்.
- வன்னியிலுள்ள பெண்தலைமைத் துவகுடும்பங்களிற்கு வாழ்வாதார உதவிகளாக தையல் இயந்திரம், கோழி, ஆடு, மாடு வளர்ப்பு, விவசாயம், சிறு கைத்தொழில் ஊக்குவிப்பு செயல்பாடுகள்.
- வன்னியில் போரினால் கால்களை இழந்த ஒருவருக்கு, கைகொடுத்து வாழ்வாதாரத்திற்காக வருமானம் ஈட்ட ஒரு சொத்தாக தொழில்துறை தையல் இயந்திரம் வழங்கி வீறுநடை போட வைத்து, இன்று அவரின் எழுச்சி மூலமாக பல பெண்தலைமைத்துவ குடும்பங்களிற்கு வாழ்வளிக்கும் செயல் திட்டத்தினை நடைமுறை படுத்தியமை.
- கிளிநொச்சி சாந்தபுரம் கலைமகள் வித்தியாலத்திற்கு திறன் வகுப்பறை ஒன்று வழங்கியமை. தரம் எட்டு இலிருந்து தரம் பதினொன்று வரை, மேலதிக நேரத்தில் மாணவ செல்வங்கள் கணிதம் விஞ்ஞானம், தமிழ் கற்கும் படியாக, மேலதிக ஆசிரியர்களை அமர்த்தி கொடுப்பனவு வழங்கியும், அந்த மாணவர்களுக்கு கற்றல் உபகரணங்கள் வழங்கியும் உள்ளமை.
- கடந்த ஆறு வருடங்களாக சராசரியாக 16

மாணவர்களின் கல்விக்காக மாதாந்தம் பண உதவிகள் வழங்கி வருகின்றமை.

- கிராஞ்சி இலவச கல்வி நிலையத்திற்கு மாணவர்களிடம், புத்தகங்கள், ஏனைய உபகரணங்கள் வழங்கி, கடந்த ஏழு வருடங்களாக இலவசமாக கற்கும் மாணவர்களின் ஆசிரியர்கள் இருவருக்கும் ஊதியம் வழங்குவது.
- கிளிநொச்சி மாவட்ட பொது வைத்தியசாலையின் நோயாளர் விடுதிகள், வெளிநோயாளர் பிரிவுகளுக்கு குடிநீர் வழங்கும் செயற்திட்டம் ஆறு வருடங்கள் முன்னர் நிறைவேற்றப்பட்டமை.
- கொரோனா காலத்தில் நோயாளிகளுக்கான சத்துணவு வழங்கியமையும், மேலும் இறந்த உடல்களை பாதுகாக்க மேலதிக தற்காலிக கொள்கலன் அமைக்க பங்களிப்பும் செய்யப்பட்டமை.

பசுமையான நினைவுகளை, மீண்டும் எங்கள் முன்னே இந்தப் பொன்விழா காட்சிப்படுத்தி யுள்ளது. இந்த விழாவை முன்னேற்பாடு செய்த அனைவருக்கும் நன்றி கூறி, வாழ்த்துகிறோம்.

இவையெல்லாம் நிறைவாக நிறைவேற உதவிய அனைத்து நண்பர்களுக்கும் நல்லுள்ளங்களுக்கும் இச்சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் நன்றிகளை பகிர்ந்து கொள்கின்றோம். எங்கள் அணியின் ஒற்றுமையும் மன இளமையும் எங்கள் பணி தொடர உதவும் என நம்புகின்றோம்.

“மெய்ப்பொருள் காண்பது அறிவு”



கம்பஸ் லூஸ்

காரைக்கவி கந்ரையா பத்மாளந்தன்

நான் ஏஎல் பயோ சயன்ஸ் படிச்ச 260 மார்க்கள் எடுத்துக் கோதாரி விழுந்த தரப்படுத்தல் சட்டத்தாலை எனக்கு மெடிசின் கிடைக்கேல்லை பயோ சயன்ஸ் தான் கிடைச்சது எண்டு எங்கட ஆச்சிக்கு கவலை எண்டதை விட சிறிமாவிலை கோவம் கோவமா வந்தது. கோதாரி விழுவாள் எங்கட பிள்ளையளின்ரை படிப்பிலை மண்ணை அள்ளிப் போட்டவள் ஒரு நாளும் நல்லா இருக்க மாட்டாள் நாசமாப் போவாள்..அவளுக்கு ஆம்பிளைச் சந்ததியே இல்லாமல் போக வேணும் எண்டு திட்டினவ. மெடிசின் இன்ஜினியரிங் எண்டு எங்கட பாத்தாலும் எங்கட பெடி பெட்டையள் தான் ராச்சியம் நடத்துகினம் அதை இல்லாமல் பண்ணவேணும் எண்டு போட்டுத்தான் உந்தத் தரப்படுத்தலை சிறீமாவின்ரை அரசாங்கம் கொண்டுவந்தது எண்டு சொன்ன அப்பு சிறீமாவின்ரை புரியன் பண்டாரநாயக் காதான் சிங்களம் மட்டும் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டாந்து எங்கட ஆக்களின்ரை வேலை வாய்ப்புகளிலை மண்ணைப் போட்டவன் எண்டுவார். ஏனெண்டால் முந்தி அந்த இந்த வேலை எண்டு எந்த வேலையை எடுத்தாலும் எந்தக் கந்தோர் வழியையும் எங்கட ஆக்கள்தான் முன்னுக்கு நிண்டவை. உதுகளை இல்லாமல் பண்ண வேணும் எண்டு போட்டுத்தான் உந்தச் சிங்களம் மட்டும் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டாந்தவங்கள் எண்டுவார் அப்பு.

உப்பிடிப் புரியனும் பெண்டிலும் போட்டி போட்டுக் கொண்டாந்த சட்டங்களாலை அப்புவும் ஆச்சியும் கோவப்பட்ட மாதிரியே கோவப்பட்ட பெடியள் கெம்பி எழும்பினதாலை ஆளுக்கொரு இயக்கம் துடங்கி அரசாங்கத்தோடையும் ஆமியோடையும் அடிபட்டது பத்தாமல் ஆர் பெரிசு எண்டு தங்களுக்கிடையிலையும் அடிபட்டுக் குத்துப்பட்டுக் குத்திமுறிஞ்சு சாக்காட்டி எண்டு கடைசியிலை சனங்களைத் தெருவிலை விட்டவங்கள். உப்பிடிச் சனங்கள் தெருவிலை நிக்கிற ஒரு கட்டத்திலை இந்தியன் ஆமி வந்து மூலைக்கு மூலை சாலோக் சாலோக் எண்டு வந்து குந்தினவங்கள்.

அப்பேக்கைதான் நாங்கள் கம்பசுக்கை போனனாங்கள். ஊராட்டு மணத்துக்கும், ஊர்ப்புட்டு மணத்துக்கும், நல்லெண்ணெய் மணத்துக்கும் பழக்கப்பட்ட எங்கட மூக்குகள் கொஞ்சம் கொஞ்சமா செம்மறியாட்டு மணத்துக்கும், சப்பாத்தி மணத்துக்கும், கடலை எண்ணெய் மணத்துக்கும் விரும்பியோ

விரும்பாமலோ பழக்கப்பட்ட துடங்கினது. எங்கட சனம் சிலருக்கு உந்த மணங்கள் தான் திறம் எண்ட அப்பிராயமும் வரத்துடங்கிவிட்டுது அவங்களுக்குப் பின்னாலையே மோந்து பிடிச்சக் கொண்டு திரிஞ்சதுகள்.

நான்கம்பசுக்குப் போறன் எண்டதும் எங்கட ஆச்சிக்குப் பெருமை பிடிபடேல்லை. ஆனையிலை ஏறின புளுகம் ஊரிலை உள்ள பெண்டுகள் எல்லாருக்கும் என்ரை பெடி கம்பசிலை படிக்குது. பெரிய படிப்பு படிக்குது எண்டு சொல்லிக்கொண்டு திரிஞ்சவ. உண்ணான அப்பேக்கை கம்பசுக்கு அருப்புத் துருப்பாத்தான் ஆக்கள் போறவை எண்டபடியாலை அவைக்கு ஒரு மவுசு இருந்தது. அவையும் தங்களை விட்டா ஆக்கள் இல்லை தங்களுக்குத்தான் எல்லாம் தெரியும் எண்டு பெரிய கெப்பரிலை திரிவினம். அதுகும் சிலதுகள் தங்களோடை பள்ளிக்கத்திலை ஒண்டாப் படிச்ச பெடி பெட்டையளோடை கதைக்கிறதும் பெரிய புறியம் விட்டுக்கொண்டு திரிவினம் எண்டால் பாருங்கோவன்.

எங்கட ஆச்சிக்கு நான் கம்பசுக்குப் போறது பெருமை எண்டாலும் தம்பி அங்கை கண்ட கிண்ட ஆட்டக் காரியளும் வருவாளவை, அவளவையோட கவனமாப் புழங்க வேணும். ஓசியிலை மாப்பிளை பிடிக்க நாகமால் கட்டிக்கொண்டு நிண்டு நாஞ்சிக்கொண்டு போடுவாளவை எண்டுவா. ஆச்சியிலையும் பிழை இல்லை தின்ன வேலியிலை தபால் பெட்டி ஒழுங்கையிலை இருந்த ஆச்சியின்ரை சொந்தக்காறர் ஒருத்தர் தங்கட ஒழுங்கையுக்கை செக்கல் மக்கலுக்கை உந்தக் கம்பஸ் பெடி பெட்டையள் தட்டிக் கொண்டும் தடவிக்கொண்டும் தனகிக்கொண்டு நிக்கிறவை எண்டு ஒருநாள் கதையோட கதையாச் சொல்லிப்போட்டார். அதாலைதான் ஆச்சிக்குப் பயம் வேறை ஒண்டும் இல்லை. அவளவை ஆரும் என்னவும் தின்னக் குடிக்கத் தந்தால் ஒருத்தரிட்டையும் ஒண்டும் வாங்கப்படாது என்னவும் மருந்து மாயத்தைப் போட்டு பிள்ளையை வசியப்படுத்திப் போடுவாளவை எண்டுவா.

ஆனால் அவ ஆச்சி கம்பசுக்கு வந்திருந்தால் தெரியும் பெட்டையளாலை தீண்டப்படாதவர்கள் லிஸ்ரிலை நான் இருந்தது. எங்களோடை படிச்ச பெட்டையளுக்கு அவையோடை வழிஞ்சு குழைஞ்சு சள் அடிச்சக்கொண்டு, சப்பாத்துப்போட்டுக்கொண்டு, கிளீன் ஷேவ் எடுத்த, அயன் பண்ணின உடுப்பு

போட்ட , பொன்ஸ் தனமா இருக்கிற பெடியளைத்தான் பிடிக்கும். என்னைப் போல பாட்டா போட்டுக்கொண்டு, அயன் பண்ணாத உடுப்பும் ,வழிக்காத தாடி மீசையுமா, இருக்கிறவங்களைப் பிடிக்கவே பிடிக்காது. அதால என் ரை ஆச்சி தப்பிவிட்டா எண்டுதான் சொல்ல வேணும்.உண்ணான அப்பெக்கை கம்பசிலை நாங்கள் குடியும் கூத்துமாத்த திரிஞ்சத்தை விட அடியும் வெடியும் வாங்கித் திரிஞ்சதுதான் கூட எண்டு சொல்ல வேணும்.

உண்ணான இந்தியன் ஆமி இருந்த காலம் அவங்கள் எங்களுக்கு அடிக்கிறதும், பிடிக்கிறதும் ஒண்டும் புதினம் இல்லை. ஒரு நாள் பின்னேரம் சொறிஞ்சு போட்டுக் கம்பசுக்காலை ஓடின இயக்கபெடியளைத் துரத்திக்கொண்டு வந்த இந்தியன் ஆமிக்காறார் கம்பசுக்கை பூந்து சயன்ஸ் பகல்ரி பக்கமாக் கண்டபடி சுட நாங்கள் விழுந்து படுத்திட்டம். மரங்களுக்குக் கீழை சள் அடிச் சக் கொண்டு இருந்தவையும் ஆளுக்கொரு பக்கத்தாலை விழுந்து படுத்தவை. சிலர் உதுதான் சாட்டெண்டு சேந்தும் படுத்தவை. உவங்கள் உப்பிடி என்னண்டு எங்கட கம்பசுக்கை பூந்து சுடலாம் உதுக்கொரு முடிவு கட வேணும் எண்டு கொஞ்சப் பேர் உசுப்பேத்த அடுத்த நாள் பரமேஸ்வராச் சந்தியிலை பெரிய ஆர்ப்பாட்டம் ஒண்டு வைச்சம். அப்ப பரமேஸ்வரச் சந்தியிலை கூர்க்காக்கள் தான் காவலுக்கு இருந்தவங்கள் . உந்த உசுப் பேத்திறது எண்டது காலம் காலமாத்த தமிழரிட்டை நடக்கிற ஒரு சங்கதி கண்டியளோ. முந்திச் சங்க காலத்திலை புலவர்மார் உந்த உசுப்பேத்தலைச் செய்தவை பேந்து எங்கட காலத்திலை அரசியல் வாதியளும் இயக்கங்களின்ரை ஆதரவாளர்களும் உதைச் செய்தவை.

எங்களுக்குத் தெரியும் தானே எங்கட பறம்பு மலைப் பாரியின்ரை சிநேகிதன் கபிலர் மூவேந்தரைப் பாத்து ஏலுமெண்டல் வாங்கடா பாப்பம்... பறம்பு மலையைப் பிடியுங்கடா பாப்பம்... எண்டு உசுப்பேத்த அவங்கள் கோதாரிவிழுவார் ஒண்டுமொண்டா நிண்டு பாரியையும் சாக்காட்டி பறம்பு மலையையும் பிடிச்சவங்கள் எண்டு எங்கடை அப்பு சொல்லிறவர். பேந்து பாரி சாக அவன்ரை பெடிச்சியள் அங்கவையும் சங்கவையும் அனாதையா வந்திட்டுதுகள்.உதிலை பகிடி என்னண்டால் உசுப்பேத்தின கபிலர் தப்ப உசுப்பேத்துப்பட்ட பாரி செத்தவன். அவன்ரை பெட்டையள் அங்க வை இஞ்சை வை எண்டு அலசேந்திப்பட்டுக் கொண்டு திரிஞ்சதுகள் எண்டுவார் அப்பு. உப்பிடித்தானே இஞ்சையும் உசுப்பேத்தப்பட்ட ஆயிரக்கணக்கான பெடி பெட்டை சாக உசுப்பேத்தினவங்கள் எல்லாம்

பார்லிமென்ற், வெளிநாடு , தங்கட பெடிபெட்டையின்ரை படிப்பு, கலியாணம் காட்சி , தங்கட தொழில் துறை ,சொத்துப் பத்து வாங்கிறது, பார் திறக்கிறது, பெற்றோல் செற்று திறக்கிறது எண்டு என்ஜாய் பண்ணிக்கொண்டு திரிஞ்சவங்கள்.

நாங்கள் உப்பிடிச் சந்தியிலை நிண்டு கூயோ மாயோ எண்டு கத்திக்கொண்டு நிக்க எங்கட கொஞ்சப் பேர் வழக்கம் போல கடைப் பேலியில நிண்டு கொண்டு விடுப்புப் பாத்தது மட்டும் இல்லை உவங்கள் சும்மா உப்பிடி உள்வலம் ஆர்ப்பாட்டம் எண்டு செய்து எங்கட படிப்பையும் குழப்பிறாங்கள் எண்டு கருத்தும் சொன்னவங்கள். உப்பிடி நாங்கள் கத்திக்கொண்டு நிக்க நிண்டாப்போல அவன் எங்களைத் துரத்தக் கல் எறிய எங்கட சிலதுகள் திருப்பி எறியக் கடைசியில அவங்கள் கூர்க்காக்கள் எஸ்எல்ஆர் துவக்காலை வெடி வைக்க எங்கட ஜெகநாதனும் சத்தியேந்திராவும் செத்தவங்கள். கடை ஓரம் நிண்டு விடுப்புப் பாத்த ஆக்கள் உட்படக் கனபேருக்குக் காயம். ஆச்சியின்ரை புண்ணியத்திலை எனக்கு காயம் ஒண்டும் படேல்லை பாஞ்சு விழுந்து படுத்ததிலை முழங்காலிலை மட்டும் சிராய்ப்புக் காயம் வந்தது

உண்ணான எங்கட கம்பஸ் பெடியள் சாகிறது ஒண்டும் புதினம் இல்லை. ஆள் மாறி ஆள் எல்லா இயக்கங்களும் கனபேரைச் சுட்டு இருக்குதுகள். இந்தியன் ஆமி இருக்கேக்கையும் ஆமியோடை சண்டை பிடிச்ச இயக்கமும் ஆமியோட சேந்து திரிஞ்ச இயக்கங்களும் சனத்தை அவர் இவற்றை ஆள் இவர் அவற்றை ஆள் காட்டிக் குடுக்கிறாங்கள் எண்ட சந்தேகத்தில மண்டையிலை போட்டவங்கள். உதுகள் பிழை எண்டு ஞாயம் கேக்கப் போனவையையும் சுட்டவங்கள். உப்பிடித்தான் கேள்வி கேட்டுப் போட்டா, சரி பிழையளை எழுதிப் போட்டா எண்டு எங்கட ராஜினி திராணகமவையும் நோட்டிலை சயிக்கிளிலை போகேக்கை சுட்டுத் தள்ளினவங்கள். அவவின்ரை சாவுக்கு இண்டைக்கும் ஆள் மாறி ஆள் அவன்தான் செய்தான் உவன்தான் செய்தான் எண்டு சொல்லிக் கொண்டு திரியிறாங்கள்.

அது கிடக்கட்டும் உந்தச் சயிக்கிள் எண்டதுந்தான் ஞாபகம் வருகுது அப்ப சண்டை நேரம் பொருளாதாரத்தடை சாமான் சக்கட்டு ஒண்டும் வராது. கோதாரி மண்ணெண்ணெய் பெற்றோல் டீசல் கரண்ட் எண்டு ஒண்டும் கிடையாது. மோட்டச்சயிக்கிளை மண்ணெண்ணெயிலை தான் ஆக்கள் ஓடினவை எங்களிட்டை மண்ணெண்ணெய்

வித்த விலைக்கு மண்ணெண்ணெய் வாங்கவும் வக்கில்லாமல் இருந்தனாங்கள் அப்ப மோட்டர்சயிக்கிள் மண்ணெண்ணெயிலை ஓடினாலும் ஸ்டார்ட் பண்ணப் பெற்றோல் வேணும். பெற்றோலைச் சிங்கர் ஓயில் போத்திலிலை வாங்கி வைச்சிருந்துதான் ஸ்டார்ட் பண்ணப் பாவிக்கிறது. சிலர் உந்தப் போத்திலை இடுப்பிலை செருகி வைச்சிருந்தவை ஏனெண்டால் அவ்வளவு விலை.

மோட்டர் சயிக்கிளை நம்பிப் பூட்டாமல் தெருவிலை விட்டுப்போனாலும் அது நிக் கும். ஆனால் உந்த மண்ணெண்ணெயை பெற்றோல் கோதாரி விழுவார் ஆற்றையும் கண்ணிலை பட்டுது எண்டால் றாஞ்சிக்கொண்டு போடுவாங்கள். உந்தப் பெற்றோலைத் துளித் துளியாப் பருக்கி விட வேணும் எண்டு போட்டு ஆசுப்பத்திரியிலை வருத்தக்காருக்குப் குளுக்கோசு ஏத்தப் போட்டிருக்கிற மாதிரி ஒரு குளுக்கோசு வயர் காபறேற்றிலை தொங்கிக்கொண்டு இருக்கும் உப்பிடப் போத்திலை வைச்சப் பெற்றோலைப் பருக்கிறதாலை அந்தப் போத்திலை நாங்கள் சூப்பிப் போத்தில் என்டனாங்கள். ரெண்டு மூண்டு துளி பெற்றோலை அதுக்குள்ளை விட்டுப்போட்டு கிக்கரை அடிக்க சும்மா சாராய மணத்துக்கே வெறி வாற எங்கட சில பெடியள் மாதிரி மோட்டர் சயிக்கிள் கமறிக் கொண்டு ஓட வெளிக்கிடும். இந்த இடத்திலை இன்னொண்டையும் சொல்ல வேணும் உந்தப் பொருளாதாரத்தடை நேரம் பெற்றோல், டீசல், மண்ணெண்ணெயை, பால்மா, சாப்பாட்டுச் சாமான்களைப் பதுக்கி வைச்சு அறா விலை வித்தவங்கள், சனத்தின்ரை வயித்திலை அடிச்சவங்கள் எல்லாம் பெரிய காசுக்காறரா சொத்துப் பத்துக் காறரா வந்திட்டாங்கள். உப்பிடயானவங்கள் கனபேர் இப்ப பெரிய கொடையாளியளா, தர்மவான்களா உலாவுறாங்கள் எண்டு அப்பு சொல்லிறவர்.

அப்ப உந்த எண்ணைப் பிரச்சினையாலை கனபேர் கம்பசுக்கு சயிக்கிளிலைதான் வருவினம். பெடி பெட்டையள் மட்டும் இல்லை மகேஸ்வரன், கணேசலிங்கம், கந்தையா, மோகனதாஸ் எண்டு எங்கட பேராசிரியர்மாற எல்லாரும் சயிக்கிளிலைதான் வருவினம். பெட்டையள் தான் பாவங்கள் எதிர்க்காத்துக்குக் கிளம்பிற பாவாடையை ஒரு கையாலை இழுத்து விட்டுக்கொண்டு மற்றக் கையாலை ஹான்டிலைப் பிடிச்சுகொண்டு ஆதளிமாதளிப் பட்டுப் போடுங்கள். காத்துக்குப் பாவாடை கிளம்பிறதைப் பாக்கவெண்டே சில காவாலியள் கம்பஸ் மதில் கீழ்க் குந்திலை ஆவெண்டு கொண்டு காவல் இருக்குங்கள்

உந்தக் காவாலியளின்ரை கள்ளப் பார்வையிலை, கீழ்க் கண் பார்வையிலை இருந்து தப்பிறதுக்கு எங்கட பெட்டையள் பெரிய ஓலைத் தொப்பி ஒண்டை சயிக்கிளுக்கு முன்னாலை கொழுவி விடுவினம்.

எங்கட காலத்திலை பேந்து இந்தியன் ஆமி போக கோட்டை அடிபாடு துடங்க கம்பஸ் கொஞ்சக் காலம் மூட்டுப் பட்டுப் போட்டுது. சாவுகளும் காயங்களும் தொடர்கதையா வந்திட்டுது. அவ்ரோ உதை நாங்கள் பீ உருட்டினெண்டு பரல் உருட்டி எண்டு சொல்லிறனாங்கள் ஏனெண்டால் பீக்குண்டு பரல் குண்டு போடும், சியாமசெட்டி, சகடை எண்டிற வை எட்டும் வை பன்னெண்டு, புக்காரா, பேந்து சுப்பர்சொளிக், கிபீர் எண்டு வந்த பிளேன்கள் எல்லாம் எங்கட கம்பசைச் சுத்திச் சுத்திக் குண்டு போடுங்கள். போதாக்குறைக்கு ஹெலியல இருந்து ஜாம் போத்தில் குண்டு விழும். ஆள் காட்டி இல்லாட்டில் கோள் மூட்டி எண்டிற சீப்பிளேனும் வண்டு எண்டு சொல்லிற ஆளில்லாப் பிளேனும் இடங்களைக் காட்ட உந்தப் பிளேன்கள் குண்டு போடும்.

எங்கட சில முற்போக்குப் பெடியள் எண்டு சொல்லிறவங்கள் உந்த றாக்கிங் நேரம் மாசலுக்கு கதை சொல்ல எண்டு எங்களைச் சுத்திச் சுத்தி வருவாங்கள் அவங்களை நாங்கள் சீப்பிளேன் எண்டுதான் சொல்லிறனாங்கள். எங்கட ஊரிலை வள்ளிப்பிள்ளை எண்டு ஒருத்தி இருந்தவ. அவ ஆற்றையும் வீடுகளிலை என்ன நடக்குது எண்டு வேலியுக்காலை பொட்டுக்காலை, செத்தைக்காலை எட்டிப் பாத்து பூராயம் முழுக்க ஆராஞ்சு அடுத்த வீடுகளிலை விண்ணாயம் விடுவா. உவ உப்பிட உளவு பாத்துச் சொண்டு காவிற்றாலை அவவையும் நாங்கள் சீப்பிளேன் எண்டு சொல்லிறனாங்கள். அநேகமான குண்டுகள் சாதாரண சனங்களின்ரை தலைக்கு மேலைதான் விழும். எண்டாலும் லங்காபுவத் செத்த சனங்கள் எல்லாத்தையும் பயங்கரவாதிகள் எண்டுதான் சொல்லும். எங்கட சொந்தக்காரரி சுந்தரி எண்டு ஒருத்தி இருத்தவ அவ உப்பிடத்தான் வாயைத் திறந்தால் பொய்யும் பிரட்டும்தான் அதாலை நாங்கள் அவவை லங்காபுவத் எண்டுதான் சொல்லிறனாங்கள்.

நாங்கள் யாழ்ப்பாணத்திலை இருந்தனாங்கள் பட்ட கஷ்ட நஷ்டத்தை விடப்பிற ஊர் வழிய இருந்து வந்து தங்கிப் படிச்ச பெடிபெட்டையள் நல்லா அலசேந்திப்பட்டுப் போட்டுதுகள். சிலவுக்குக் காசில்லாமல் லீவு நேரம் வீடுகளுக்குப் போகவரேலாமல் நல்லா உத்தரிச்சதுகள். அதிலும் தற்செயலா வீட்டை போக வெளிக்கிட்டு உந்தச்

செல்லடி பொல்லடியுக்காலை கொம்படி, ஊரியான் , தட்டுவன்கொட்டி , கிளாலி , ஓமந்தை , தாண்டிக்குளம் என்று அதுகள் பட்ட துன்பத்தை வைச்ச ஒரு பெரிய நாவலே எழுதலாம்.

என்னதான் வெடியும் அடியும் விழுந்தாலும் செத்துக்கெட்டுப் போனாலும் நாங்கள் அந்த நேரம் சந்தோசமாத்தான் கம்பசிலை இருந்தனாங்கள். வெல்கம் பாட்டி, கோயிங் டவுன் பாட்டி, இடைக்கிடை சாடைமாயா ராக்கிங், நாடகம், கவிதை, பட்டி மண்டபம் , பொது வேலையள், சிரமதானங்கள், பங்கர் வெட்டிற்று , பங்கர் வெட்ட ஆள் பிடிக்க வந்தால் ஒளிச்சு ஓடுறது என்று பொழுது போனது. உந்த ஒளிச்சு ஓடுறது எண்டேக்கைதான் ஞாபகம் வருகுது இந்தியன் ஆமி இருக்கேக்கை அப்பவும் சிவில் வொலண்டியர் போர்ஸ் என்று ஒண்டுக்கும் வலோற்காரமா ஆள் பிடிக்க வர நாங்கள் மதில்கள் வேலியள் என்று பாஞ்சு ஓடினனாங்கள்.பெய்யப் பேல வழி இல்லாமலும் ஒளிச்சு எல்லாம் இருந்தனாங்கள். பேந்து இந்தியன் ஆமி தந்த அசோகச் சின்னம் பொறிச்ச அடையாள அட்டையைக் காட்டிக்கொண்டு கொஞ்சம் உசாராத் தெருவழியை திரிஞ்சனாங்கள்.

கம்பசிலை எங்கட உந்தப் பொழுது போக்குக்குப் பம்பலுக்கு ஜொலி பாரும் ஆனைக்கோட்டைக் கள்ளும் ஒரு காரணம் எண்டுதான் சொல்ல வேணும். அதுகும் அப்ப கம்பசிலை பார்ட்டியள் என்று வந்திட்டால் கள்ளும் சாராயமும் கண்மடை தெரியாமல் அங்கையும் இஞ்சையும் உலாவும். அப்ப எங்களோடை கள்ளுச் சாராயம் அடிச்ச மச்சம் மாமிசம் திண்டு குடிச்ச வெறிச்ச வம்பு தும்பு வேலை, முஸ்பாத்தி வேலை செய்த சிலர் இப்ப சாமியார் மாதிரி உண்பனவு குடிப்பனவு ஒண்டும் இல்லாமல் திரியிறாங்கள். பெடியளும் பெட்டையளும் சேந்து ஆட்டமும் பாட்டமும் களை கட்டும். சோத்துப் பார்சல்கள் திறந்தும் திறக்காமலும் அரைகுறைப் பேப்பரோடை ஆபாச நடிகையள் மாதிரித் தெருவழியை கிடக்கும். உதாலையே எங்களைச் சனம் குடிகார மட்டியள் ஆத்தை அப்பன்ரை காசிலை, ஊர்க்காசிலை குடிக்குதுகள் வெறிக்குதுகள் என்று பேசிறதோடை பெட்டையளையும் தோறையள் வெக்கம் ரோசம்

இல்லாமல் பெடியளோடை நிண்டு ஆடுறாளவை ஆட்டக்காறியள் எண்டு பேசினவை. எங்களோடை படிச்ச கனபேர் அதுகும் இப்ப பெரிய பதவியிலை இருக்கிற கனபேர் இப்ப உந்த ஆட்டங்கள் பாட்டங்கள் பற்றிப் பப்பிளிக்கில சொல்லாயினம். சொன்னால் அவையினர் இமேஜ் டமேஜாப் போடும் பொட்டுக்கேடு வெளிக்கிட்டுவிடும் என்று அவைக்குப் பயம்.

உந்தக் கோதாரி விழுந்த சனத்தினரை வம்பு தும்புக் கதையளாலை கன இடங்களிலை சமபந்தம் பேசப் புரோக்கர்மார் போனால் மாப்பிளைமார் ஐயோ பொம்பிளை கம்பசோ அப்ப வேண்டாம் என்று குண்டியிலை கால் பட ஓடினவங்கள் அவங்களுக்கு முதல் அவங்களினரை தாய் தேப்பன் வெண்டேசிலை ஓடுற மாதிரி ஓடினவை. என்ன இருந்தாலும் எங்களோடை படிச்ச பெட்டையள் இப்ப இஞ்சையும் வெளியிலையுமா கலியாணம் கட்டிப் பெத்த பிள்ளை பேரப் பிள்ளையளோடை இருக்கினம். ஆச்சி சொல்லிற மாதிரிச் சில பெட்டையள் கம்பசிலை தங்களோடை படிச்சவையையே கெட்டித்தனமா கலியாணம் கட்டினவளவை. உப்பிடக் கம்பசிலை காதலிச்ச சில பெடி பெட்டையள் சுத்து மட்டும் சுத்திப்போட்டு பேந்து ஆளாளுக்கு காய் வெட்டிப் போட்டு வேற ஆக்களைக் கலியாணம் கட்டினதும் நடந்தது அவளவை எங்களோடை படிச்சவளவையினரை தீண்டத்தகாதோர் லிஸ்டிலை இருந்த நாங்களும் ஒரு மாதிரிக் கலியாணம் காட்சி எண்டு கண்டு போட்டம். எண்டாலும் இண்டைக்கும் அவளவை எங்களை உதாசீனம் செய்த வலி மனசிலை ஒரு பக்கத்திலை கூடு கட்டி இருந்து அப்ப அப்ப வலிக்கும் என்று சொல்ல நான் ஏன் வெக்கப் படவேணும்.

என்னதான் நான் கம்பசிலை படிச்சாலும் பட்டம் எடுத்தாலும் எனக்கொரு கவலை இண்டைக்கும் இருக்குது பாருங்கோ. கம்பசிலை படிக்கிறன் எண்ட கெப்பறிலை ஊர் வழியை நடக்கிற நல்லது கெட்டதுகளுக்கு ஞாயம் கதைக்கப் போய் தத்துவம், சித்தாந்தம், வேதாந்தம், மாக்கிசம், எல்லாம் கதைக்க அவங்கள் என்னை கம்பஸ் லூஸ் என்று போட்டாங்கள் கண்டியளோ.



My Journey at the University of Jaffna A Tale of Growth, Learning, & Inspiration

Mr. R. Ramanaruban

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Embarking on my journey at the University of Jaffna was a significant milestone in my life, filled with growth, learning, and unforgettable experiences. From the very first day, I was immersed in a whirlwind of emotions and events that shaped my university years.

First Day of Orientation

The first day of the orientation program was a mix of excitement and apprehension. As I stepped onto the university premises, I was greeted by a lively and bustling atmosphere. However, the reality of university life hit hard when we encountered ragging from the seniors. This initial exposure to ragging was daunting, but it also served as a rite of passage that every newcomer had to endure.

Navigating Academic Challenges

As the semester progressed, the academic rigor became evident. The anticipation of the first semester exams was intense, and the stress of studying the night before the exams was palpable. Sleepless nights, cramming sessions, and the constant pressure to excel became a routine part of university life. Despite the challenges, these experiences instilled a sense of discipline and perseverance.

Balancing academic responsibilities with personal life was another challenge. Managing study sessions often turned into late-night discussions, time effectively between attending lectures, completing assignments, and preparing for practice, and peer support played a crucial role in understanding complex subjects and preparing for exams. These fostering a sense of camaraderie and mutual support. Exams required a lot of effort and organization. Group studies became a regular

Unforeseen Events: Easter Bomb Attacks and COVID-19 Pandemic

The academic journey took an unexpected turn with the tragic Easter bomb attacks. The aftermath of the attacks brought about a somber atmosphere, and the university community came together in solidarity. Just as we were beginning to recover, the world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic drastically

altered our university experience. For nearly two years, we transitioned to online Zoom classes. The shift to remote learning was challenging, but it also taught us adaptability and resilience. Despite the virtual setup, we were fortunate to be able to write all three semester exams at the university, maintaining a semblance of normalcy. Adapting to online learning had its own set of challenges. Technical issues, lack of physical interaction, and the difficulty in staying motivated were some of the hurdles we had to overcome. However, the support from professors and the university administration made the transition smoother. They ensured that we had access to all necessary resources and were always available for guidance.

Involvement in Societies

One of the highlights of my university life was my active involvement in various student societies. Serving as the batch representative for the Computer Society of the University of Jaffna during my fourth and final year of studies for the honors degree in Computer Science, I had the opportunity to organize and conduct online awareness and knowledge-sharing sessions. During the COVID-19 outbreaks, I acted as a moderator for these sessions, facilitating keynote speakers and ensuring smooth operations via Zoom. This experience honed my organizational and leadership skills, particularly in managing virtual events and coordinating with multiple stakeholders.

Additionally, I and fellow batchmates successfully organized the Thai Pongal festival, a significant cultural event, marking the completion of the first year in our new building for the Department of Computer Science. This event was a delightful success and well-organized, showcasing my ability to plan and execute large-scale events. Another memorable event I spearheaded was “a Thanksgiving party for our lecturers” organized by our batch. This event required obtaining last-minute permission from the dean and managing challenges such as conducting it during the end-of-course examinations with restricted

sound levels. Despite these constraints, the event was executed smoothly with the support of my batchmates, highlighting my ability to handle pressure and deliver results effectively.

One of the most cherished memories was organizing the batch photograph session with our lecturers and students. We created a photo frame and presented it to our Head of Department, Mr. S. Suthakar, during the Thejavu event, symbolizing our batch' gratitude and unity. I was also a dedicated member of the Gavel Club, where I actively participated in both online and in-person sessions. Taking on roles such as general evaluator and table topic master significantly improved my English communication skills and boosted my confidence in public speaking. Furthermore, my involvement with the IEEE Student Branch of the University of Jaffna was particularly rewarding. As an active member of this esteemed organization, I engaged in various IEEE activities, which enriched my academic experience and provided a platform for professional growth.

Extracurricular Activities

A significant milestone during my undergraduate years was the launch of my debut licensed software application, Inthiramart, on December 6th, 2023, at the Agriculture Auditorium, University of Jaffna. The event, graced by Professor S. Srisatkunarajah, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, and numerous government agriculture officials and students, was a remarkable success. The product, developed under the patronage of UBL-Jaffna with funding from AHEAD, was licensed non-exclusively to Inthira Group Private Limited on April 18th, 2023. This achievement marks the debut of a commercialized software product from the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, and represents a significant accomplishment. The project, supervised by Dr. K. Thabotharan, received immense support and guidance, which was crucial for its deployment in the real world. The application is also available on the Google Play Store, where it has garnered positive reviews from users. This experience not only filled me with pride but also provided practical exposure to the application of my computer science education, paving the way for numerous opportunities for experiential learning and professional development.

The commercialization of Inthiramart is a testament to the practical exposure and learning opportunities provided by the University of Jaffna. This project allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world problems, bridging the gap between academic learning and industry demands. The support from UBL-Jaffna and the AHEAD funding played a pivotal role in transforming a classroom project into a market-ready product. This journey equipped me with valuable skills in software development, project management, and entrepreneurship, which are essential for my professional growth. Participating in hackathons and coding competitions further honed my technical skills and provided a platform to showcase my abilities. These events were a great way to test my knowledge, learn new technologies, and collaborate with like-minded individuals. Winning or even participating in these competitions boosted my confidence and added value to my academic profile.

My Favorite Professor: A Source of Inspiration

Choosing a favorite professor is challenging, given the tremendous support and guidance I received from many. However, if I were to pick one, it would be Professor A. Ramanan. He recognised my potential during the presentation of my third-year software project at the viva. His insistence on licensing and commercializing my software product was a turning point, leading to the first licensed software product from our Faculty of Science. This achievement filled me with immense pride and was a direct result of his early encouragement and vision.

Under Professor Ramanan's mentorship, I also had the privilege of working on a research project focused on Paddy Leaf Disease Classification using Deep Neural Networks. Since November 2023, I have been involved in collecting field samples by visiting paddy fields and taking photographs to create a high-resolution public dataset.

With his guidance, I successfully created the dataset to dataset to fine-tune a pre-trained deep learning model with a channel attention mechanism to classify four classes of paddy leaf diseases prevalent in the northern region. This project was not only successful but also profoundly inspiring, as it involved hands-on fieldwork and cutting-edge research, deepening my understanding and passion for the field.

Research and Internship Experience

The University of Jaffna provided me with incredible research and internship opportunities, which were pivotal in my academic and professional development. I was fortunate to conduct my undergraduate research under the guidance of Professor M. Siyamalan. My research focused on the “Effect of Loss Functions for CNN-based Mask and Mask-free Face Recognition”. This project, my first significant research endeavor, involved more than 400 hours of intense study and experimentation.

Under Professor Siyamalan’s supervision, I presented my research as a poster presentation at the SL-SWCS workshop and earned a distinction for my six-credit-worthy research. This achievement was a testament to the hard work and dedication I had invested in the project. I was also privileged to utilize the high-performance computing facility at the Department of Computer Science to support my research. Access to this facility was limited to students who excelled in their research work, and I am immensely grateful for this opportunity. The ability to access this facility remotely from my home was a significant advantage, allowing me to work efficiently and effectively. A huge thanks to my supervisor for providing me with this access and supporting me throughout my research journey.

In addition to my research work, I undertook a six-credit-worthy internship during my last semester at Codelantic (Pvt) Ltd, a UK-based software development company with a branch in Jaffna. Working as a backend developer, I gained hands-on experience with Java-Spring-boot development and Selenium automation. This internship was an invaluable experience, allowing me to apply theoretical concepts learned in the classroom to real-world scenarios. It also helped me brush up my programming skills and prepared me for future employment in the industry. Balancing the demands of a six-credit research project and a six-credit internship was challenging but immensely rewarding. Both experiences were instrumental in shaping my professional skills and provided me with a comprehensive understanding of both academic research and practical industry applications. These experiences also highlighted the importance of time management and prioritization, as I had to juggle multiple responsibilities simultaneously.

Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA), University of Jaffna

Sports and Entertainment

My involvement in sports and entertainment activities was another vital aspect of my university life. Participating in Science Week every year was a highlight, as it brought together students from different disciplines to showcase their talents and engage in friendly competition. I actively participated in various sports such as cricket, Elle, and chess, and I am proud to have been part of teams that won championships. These experiences not only honed my physical skills but also taught me the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and strategic thinking. The talent show, an integral part of Science Week, was an awesome cultural event where students could recognize and display their hidden aesthetic talents in singing and dancing. This event was a vibrant celebration of our diverse cultural backgrounds and talents. Irrespective of race, we joined together to make the event more colorful and memorable. The talent show provided a platform for self-expression and creativity, allowing us to bond over shared experiences and appreciate the rich cultural tapestry of our university community.

Reflecting on Growth and Inspiration

Looking back, my time at the University of Jaffna was a blend of highs and lows, each contributing to my personal and academic growth. The challenges, from rigorous academic demands to coping with unforeseen global events, shaped me into a resilient and adaptable individual.

Although I met many good souls who helped me navigate and succeed in my degree program, I couldn’t find a life partner as many others typically do during their university years. My focus on acquiring a quality education and deepening my knowledge was my top priority. However, the achievements and experiences I have gained during these four years have truly satisfied me.

In conclusion, my journey at the University of Jaffna was a transformative experience that shaped me into the person I am today. The University of Jaffna will always hold a special place in my heart, and I am proud to be an alumnus of this esteemed institution. I look forward to applying the lessons learned and the skills acquired to make a meaningful impact in the world. Thank you, University of Jaffna, for an incredible journey.

Embracing Opportunities and celebrating diversity

My Multifaceted Journey at University of Jaffna

M. F. F. Fasmina

(2016/SP/253, 42nd Batch, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna)

My time at the University of Jaffna (UoJ), particularly within the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, stands as the golden era of my life. Pursuing a combination of Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Statistics was a journey marked by endless possibilities, new friendships, and an academically challenging environment that fuelled my dreams. The rigorous coursework, insightful seminars, and the supportive faculty at UoJ provided a solid foundation for my future endeavours. From the moment I stepped into the university, I was surrounded by an atmosphere of learning and growth. The initial days were filled with a mix of excitement and nervousness, but the welcoming nature of the faculty and fellow students quickly made me feel at home.

The department was a place where intellectual curiosity was encouraged, and every lecture was a new opportunity to delve deeper into the world of mathematics and statistics. The academic journey at UoJ was both challenging and rewarding. The curriculum was designed to push our boundaries and encourage critical thinking. Each course was meticulously structured to cover both theoretical concepts and practical applications, ensuring that we gained a comprehensive understanding of the subjects. The faculty members were always available to clarify doubts and provide guidance, which played a crucial role in my academic success. Pure Mathematics, with its abstract nature, was both intriguing and demanding. The beauty of solving complex problems and proving theorems was an experience that I cherished. Applied Mathematics, on the other hand, allowed us to see the practical implications of mathematical concepts in real-world scenarios. Statistics, with its focus on data analysis and interpretation, was particularly fascinating and has been instrumental in shaping my career path.

One of the most memorable academic experiences was working on my final year project under the guidance

of Dr. S. Arumairajan. The project required extensive research and data analysis, and Dr. Arumairajan's support was invaluable. His ability to listen attentively and provide constructive feedback helped me navigate through the challenges of the project. His encouragement and belief in my capabilities boosted my confidence and motivated me to put forth my best effort. As an active member of the Math Society, I had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that enriched my university experience. The Math Society was a vibrant community of students who shared a passion for mathematics and statistics. We organized study groups, guest lectures, and mathematics competitions, which not only deepened our understanding of the subjects but also fostered a sense of camaraderie among us. The study groups were particularly beneficial as they provided a platform for collaborative learning. We would meet regularly to discuss difficult topics, solve problems, and share knowledge. These sessions were instrumental in enhancing our understanding and performance in exams.

The guest lectures, delivered by eminent mathematicians and statisticians, were another highlight. These lectures exposed us to advanced topics and cutting-edge research, inspiring many of us to pursue further studies in mathematics and statistics. Participating in mathematics competitions was an exciting and challenging experience. The competitions tested our problem-solving skills and ability to think on our feet. Preparing for these competitions involved rigorous practice and teamwork, which helped us develop a strong foundation in mathematical concepts. While academics were a significant part of my university life, I also had a passion for extracurricular activities. During my school days, I was actively involved in various sports and cultural events, and I wanted to continue this tradition at university. However, certain circumstances limited my involvement in extracurricular activities during

my initial years at UoJ. Despite these challenges, I managed to participate in the Elle competition during the 2018 Science Week, organized by our batch. I also took part in quiz competitions organized by the University of Colombo and the inter-faculty quiz competition organized by the Muslim Masjids, where I won second place.

The Elle competition was a memorable experience. It was an opportunity to take a break from the rigorous academic schedule and engage in a fun and competitive activity. The event brought together students from different departments, fostering a sense of unity and teamwork. Participating in the competition reignited my passion for extracurricular activities and demonstrated the importance of balancing academics with other interests. One of the most enriching aspects of my time at UoJ was the opportunity to explore and celebrate different cultures. The university was a melting pot of students from diverse backgrounds, each bringing their unique traditions and celebrations. I had the privilege of participating in various cultural festivities, such as Vesak and New Year celebrations, traditional Kolam making, and many other festivals from different religions. Vesak, the celebration of Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death, was a particularly memorable experience. The campus was adorned with colourful lanterns, and the atmosphere was filled with a sense of peace and tranquility. Participating in the celebrations gave me a deeper understanding of Buddhist traditions and the values of compassion and mindfulness. New Year celebrations were another highlight. The festive atmosphere, traditional games, and delicious food brought a sense of joy and togetherness. These celebrations were a reminder of the rich cultural heritage that we share and the importance of preserving these traditions. Traditional Kolam making was a fascinating experience. Kolam, a form of art created using rice flour or chalk powder, is a common practice in South Indian households. Participating in Kolam making allowed me to appreciate the artistic skills and cultural significance of this tradition. It was a wonderful way to connect with fellow students and celebrate our shared cultural heritage.

These cultural experiences broadened my understanding of diversity and fostered a sense of unity and appreciation for our university's vibrant

community. They taught me the importance of respecting and celebrating different cultures, which has been a valuable lesson in my personal and professional life. Being part of the organizing committee for our annual cultural festival was one of the most rewarding experiences of my university life. The festival was a celebration of the diversity and spirit of our university community. Organizing such a large-scale event required meticulous planning, teamwork, and leadership skills. The preparation for the festival began months in advance. We had to coordinate with various departments, arrange for performances, manage logistics, and ensure that everything ran smoothly on the day of the event. It was a challenging task, but the support and enthusiasm of my fellow committee members made it a memorable experience. The festival itself was a grand success. It was a joy to see our efforts come to life in vibrant and memorable events. The cultural performances, traditional games, and food stalls brought the campus to life and created a sense of unity and celebration. Being part of the organizing committee allowed me to develop leadership and organizational skills and celebrate the diversity and spirit of our university. One of the significant opportunities I had during my time at UoJ was interning at the Department of Census and Statistics. This experience was invaluable as it allowed me to apply my statistical knowledge to real-world data analysis and gain practical insights into the workings of national statistical systems. The internship involved working on various projects that required data collection, analysis, and interpretation. I had the opportunity to work with experienced statisticians and learn about the methodologies and techniques used in national statistical surveys. This hands-on experience was instrumental in bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical application. In addition to the internship, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at UoJ organized workshops on mathematical software and data analysis. These workshops provided us with the necessary skills to handle complex data sets and perform advanced statistical analyses. The knowledge and skills gained from these workshops have been invaluable in my professional career.

Throughout my university life, almost all the lecturers inspired me with their attitude and behaviour in different ways. Two lecturers, in particular, left



a profound impact on me: Dr. S. Arivazhagan and Dr. S. Arumairajan, both of whom were Statistics lecturers I met in my first year. Dr. S. Arivazhagan, the Head of the Department during our period, was always approachable and greeted us with a warm smile. His words of encouragement and his simple, down-to-earth nature amazed me. I often wondered how someone could be as humble and kind as he was. Despite his busy schedule, he always made time for us and was willing to help with any academic or personal issues. His dedication to teaching and his ability to explain complex concepts in a simple and understandable manner made him an exceptional educator. Dr. S. Arumairajan provided exceptional support throughout my final project. He was always there to listen, offering invaluable guidance and treating us with utmost respect. His superb qualities of being attentive and caring made a significant impact on my academic journey. Dr. Arumairajan's enthusiasm for Applied Mathematics and his dedication to teaching were remarkable. He had a unique ability to

make complex topics understandable and instil a love for the subject in his students. His mentorship not only guided us academically but also shaped our character and future, making each day at the university better and more meaningful. Both Dr. Arivazhagan and Dr. Arumairajan played pivotal roles in my academic and personal development. Their dedication, kindness, and ability to inspire have left a lasting impression on me. They taught me the importance of perseverance, humility, and the value of education, which have been guiding principles in my life. In conclusion, my time at the University of Jaffna was a period of immense growth and learning. The combination of rigorous academic training, participation in student societies, involvement in extracurricular activities, cultural exploration, and the support of inspiring faculty members made my university experience truly enriching. The memories and lessons from UoJ have had a lasting impact on my personal and professional life, and I will always cherish the golden era of my life spent at this esteemed institution.

Embracing Diversity and Excellence

My Journey at the University of Jaffna

Experiences within the Department and Faculty

Mr. S. Anu Rakavan

(2013/SB/091 39th Batch Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna)

My academic journey at the University of Jaffna, specifically within the Faculty of Science, was a transformative period marked by rigorous learning, collaborative projects, and significant personal growth. I was part of the 39th Batch, a group distinguished by its rich diversity and unity. Our batch was a melting pot of cultures, reflecting the vibrant, multi-ethnic fabric of our community. This diversity was not merely a backdrop but a dynamic force that enriched our academic and social experiences.

As a trilinguist, I had the unique advantage of seamlessly integrating into various student groups and committees. This linguistic versatility allowed me to contribute effectively to numerous initiatives and events that became defining moments for our batch. One of the highlights was the first batch-hiking trip to Hanthana, which required meticulous planning and coordination with the University of Peradeniya. This trip was more than just an outdoor adventure; it was a bonding experience that strengthened our batch's camaraderie.

Another memorable event was our batch get-together at Thalsevana Hotel in KKS. Organizing this event was a logistical challenge, but the outcome was a resounding success, filled with joy, laughter, and a sense of belonging. It was an opportunity for us to reflect on our journey, celebrate our achievements, and reinforce the bonds we had formed.

Creating our batch magazine and souvenir was another significant milestone. This project required collective effort and creativity, capturing the essence of our experiences and preserving them for posterity. Additionally, we introduced esports into Science Week, a novel idea that brought a modern twist to traditional academic events, engaging students in new and exciting ways. The introduction of the Holi Festival was particularly special. Holi, known as the festival of colors, symbolizes the victory of good over evil and the arrival of spring. Celebrating Holi at our university was a vibrant and joyous occasion that transcended cultural boundaries, fostering inclusivity

and unity among students.

Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities played a pivotal role in my university life, complementing my academic pursuits and contributing to my holistic development. Under the mentorship of Prof. P. Iyngaran from the Department of Chemistry, I had the privilege of joining the university's chemistry debate team. This opportunity was a turning point in my extracurricular involvement. The debate team competed in the all-island debate competition, where I had the honor of captaining two unbeaten championships. Leading the team was a challenging yet rewarding experience that honed my leadership, critical thinking, and public speaking skills. Additionally, I coached the university team, helping them achieve the first hat-trick in the history of the debate competition. This achievement was not just a personal milestone but a testament to the collective effort and determination of our team. It was a proud moment for the University of Jaffna and a highlight of my extracurricular journey.

Basketball was another significant aspect of my university life. As a member of the University of Jaffna Basketball team for four years, I represented the university in the Inter University games each year. My involvement in basketball extended to the Inter Faculty Basketball competitions and various basketball club matches. These experiences were instrumental in developing my teamwork, discipline, and resilience.

Involvement in Student Society

My tenure as the president of the Chemical Society for the year 2017/2018 was a period of immense learning and accomplishment. Leading the Chemical Society was a challenging yet fulfilling experience that allowed me to make a meaningful impact. We not only continued the society's annual activities but also introduced new initiatives that set a higher benchmark. One of our significant achievements was organizing the Inter-level debate competition, which provided a platform for students to showcase their debating skills and engage in intellectual discourse. We also initiated the Inter-level Chemistry Quiz Competition, a fun and educational event that encouraged students to deepen their understanding of chemistry.

Community outreach was another area where we made significant strides. We organized beach cleanup programs, reflecting our commitment to environmental sustainability and social responsibility. Fundraisers such as selling lab coats and safety goggles to freshman chemistry students, along with buttons and pins, were successful initiatives that supported the society's activities and fostered a sense of community. A landmark achievement during my presidency was the creation of the first digital version of the ChemiSphere magazine. This initiative modernized our communication approach and made the magazine accessible to a broader audience, ensuring that the knowledge and experiences shared in its pages reached as many students as possible.

Organizing the Celebration of Festivals

Cultural and religious celebrations were integral to our university life, providing opportunities to embrace our heritage and celebrate our diversity. I actively participated in organizing and celebrating various festivals, including Thai Pongal, Tamil Sinhala New Year, and Vesak. These celebrations were vibrant occasions that brought students together, fostering a sense of unity and cultural appreciation.

In addition to religious festivals, we organized batch "Welcome parties" for juniors and "Going down parties" for seniors. These events were significant milestones in the university calendar, marking the beginning and end of academic journeys and creating lasting memories. Music was another important aspect of our celebrations. We performed in multilingual song singing and participated in western and Karnatic musical instrumental orchestras. These performances were not just about showcasing talent but also about celebrating the rich musical heritage of our diverse community. Opportunities for Experiential Learning or Professional Development Although our undergraduate program did not include formal internships, I was fortunate to have several opportunities for experiential learning and professional development. Under the guidance of Dr. Sivatharshini from the Department of Chemistry, I completed a Certificate

Course on Instrument Handling at the Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC).

This course provided hands-on experience with advanced scientific instruments, enhancing my practical skills and knowledge. We also undertook industrial visits in Colombo as part of our academic requirements. These visits were invaluable, providing insights into real-world industrial processes and applications of chemistry. They also offered networking opportunities with professionals in the

field, broadening our horizons and preparing us for future careers.

In 2017, I had the privilege of representing the University of Jaffna in the "National Green Innovator Competition," thanks to Prof. Sasikesh. Along with my batch mate, Mr. Aeneas Jerron, we developed the "Gamified Reverse Vending Machine," a project that won second place in the competition. This experience was a testament to the innovative spirit and collaborative effort within our batch, and it provided a platform to showcase our ideas and creativity on a national stage.

My research journey at the University of Jaffna was equally enriching. Under the mentorship of Prof. P. Iyngaran and Prof. Kuganathan, I conducted cutting-edge research in computational chemistry. This research not only contributed to my academic development but also had a lasting impact on the Department of Chemistry. Our work led to computational chemistry becoming an annual research topic within the department, ensuring that future students could explore this fascinating and rapidly evolving field. Favorite Professor and Inspiration

Throughout my academic journey, I was fortunate to have the guidance and support of many exceptional professors. Among them, Dr. Sivapalan and Dr. (Mrs) Sivapalan stand out as my most cherished mentors. Their dedication to teaching and their ability to inspire students left a profound impact on my life. Dr. Sivapalan and Dr. (Mrs) Sivapalan recognized my potential as a public speaker early on and nurtured my debating skills. Their mentorship extended beyond academics, imparting valuable life lessons that have shaped my character and career. Their unwavering support and belief in my abilities gave me the confidence to pursue my goals and excel in various fields.

In conclusion, my time at the University of Jaffna was a period of immense growth, learning, and unforgettable experiences. The supportive academic environment, coupled with diverse opportunities for personal and professional development, equipped me with the skills and knowledge to pursue my aspirations and contribute meaningfully to society. My journey was enriched by the vibrant community, dedicated mentors, and the numerous challenges and achievements that have become an integral part of who I am today.

The University of Jaffna provided a nurturing ground for my academic and personal development, and I am grateful for the experiences and memories that will forever remain close to my heart.

கல்வி கற்கப்போய் வாழ்க்கையைக் கற்று வந்தோம் நாம்

கலாநிதி இரவி பிரபாகரன்

16ஆவது அணி, உயிரியல் பிரிவு, விஞ்ஞான பீடம்
(Research & Technology Manager, Advanced Healthcare Ltd, Kent, UK)

பள்ளிக்கூட வாழ்வில் இருந்து பல்கலைக்கழக வாழ்க்கை சமூக ரீதியாகவும், விஞ்ஞான ரீதியாகவும் மிகவும் வேறுபட்டது. வளாகத்திற்குள் நாம் நுழைந்தவுடன் எல்லா மட்டங்களிலும் நாம் ஒரு புதிய தளத்திற்குள் சென்றுவிடுகின்றோம்.

வளாகத்திற்குள் நுழைந்த எல்லோருடைய அனுபவங்களும் ஒரேமாதிரியானதாக இருப்பதில்லை. முதலாவது வருடத்தில் நாம் சந்தித்த நாட்களுக்கும் மூன்றாவது வருடத்தில் சந்தித்த நாட்களுக்கும் அதிக வேறுபாடுகள் இருக்கும். அவை தனித்துவமானவை. அங்கு நீண்டகால நண்பர்களை ஏற்படுத்தவும், எமது எதிர்கால வாழ்க்கையை வளம்படுத்துவதற்குமான சந்தர்ப்பங்களும், அனுபவங்களும் எமக்குக் கிடைக்கின்றன.

பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் பசுமையான நாட்களில் நாம் கற்றுக்கொண்டவை ஏராளம். அங்கு கல்வி மட்டும் கற்கவில்லை, வாழ்க்கையையும் கற்றுக்கொண்டோம், ஏன் சிலர் தமது வாழ்க்கைத் துணையையும் தேடிக்கொண்டனர். வழமைபோல எமது பிரிவும் அதற்கு விதிவிலக்கல்ல.

உள்நாட்டுப் போர் தீவிரமாக இடம்பெற்றுவந்த காலப்பகுதியில் மின்சாரம் கூட இல்லாத மிகவும் அடிப்படை வசதிகள் அற்ற நிலையில் எமது பிரிவின் பல்கலைக்கழகப் பிரவேசம் 1990 ஆம் ஆண்டு நவம்பர் மாதம் நிகழ்ந்தது. இருந்தபோதும் நாம் எமக்கு கிடைத்த வளங்களைக் கொண்டு மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருக்கத் தவறவில்லை.

விரிவுரை மண்டபத்தில் இருப்பதை விடக் கல்இருக்கைகளில் (Stone bench) இருப்பதுதான் எமக்கு அதிகம் பிடித்திருந்தது. அங்குதான் எமக்கு அதிகம் ஞானம் கிடைத்தது என்றும் சொல்லலாம். அந்த கல் இருக்கையில் இருந்து கிடைத்த ஞானத்தின் ஒரு துளிதான் எமது வரவேற்புப் பார்ட்டியில் வில்லுப்பாட்டாக மலர்ந்து பின்னர் நாடகமாக உயர்ந்து நாடகப் போட்டியாக உருவெடுத்துப் பரிசையும் தட்டிச்செல்லும் அளவுக்கு எம்மில் பலரிடம் இருந்த திறமையை வெளிக்கொண்டுவந்திருந்தது. இறுதியாக நாம் வெளியேறும்போது எமக்கு அடுத்த பிரிவுக்கு

எதிரான பட்டிமன்றக் களத்தையும் நாம் வெற்றிகரமாகச் சந்தித்திருந்தோம்.

சிறந்த பாடகர்கள், இயக்குநர்கள், நாடகக் கலைஞர்கள், கவிஞர்கள், அறிவிப்பாளர்கள், மேடைப் பேச்சாளர்கள் என எம்மில் பலரிடம் இருந்த திறமைகளை வெளியில் கொண்டுவந்த பெருமையும் அந்த கல் இருக்கைக்குத் தான் உண்டு.

நாடகங்களைப் போட்டபோதும், பரீட்சைக்காக ஒன்று சேர்ந்து படித்தபோதும், வெளிக்களைச் சுற்றுலா சென்றபோதும், நண்பர்களின் வீடுகளில் இடம்பெற்ற இன்ப, துன்ப நிகழ்வுகளில் கலந்துகொண்டபோதும் ஒரு குழு நிலையாக எப்படிச் செயலாற்றுவது (teamwork) என்பதை நாம் இலகுவாகக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளும் களத்தை எமக்கு ஏற்படுத்தித் தந்ததும் இந்தப் பல்கலைக்கழக வாழ்க்கை தான்.

குப்பி விளக்கில் கல்வி கற்பதற்காகப் பல்கலைக்கழக மாணவர் அமைப்பு மண்ணெண்ணையை வழங்கிய போதும் அதனையும் வரிசையில் நின்று மகிழ்ச்சியாகவே பெற்றுக்கொள்வோம். அந்த வரிசையிலும் சிலர் காதல் செய்யத் தவறவில்லை. அதாவது எந்தச் சூழ்நிலையிலும் மகிழ்வாக இருக்கக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளப் பழகிக்கொண்ட நாட்கள் அவை.

பொருளாதாரத்தடைகளினால் எமக்கு வெளிநாட்டுப் பொருட்கள் கிடைக்காது விட்டாலும், உள்ளூர்ப் பனை மரமும், புகையிலையும் பார்ட்டிகளில் எம்மை மகிழ்வாகவே வைத்திருந்தன.

நெருக்கடி வரும்போதும், சேர்ந்து சிந்திக்கும்போதும் தான் புதிய சிந்தனைகளும், வழிமுறைகளும் பிறக்கும் என்பார்கள். அதுதான் உண்மை போலும். அன்றைய காலகட்டத்தில் மாணவர் விடுதியில் உள்ள படிக்கும் அறைகளில் நறுமணம் வீச எம்மிடம் air freshener இருக்கவில்லை.

ஆனால் அது இல்லை என நாம் கவலைப்பட்டதும் இல்லை. அந்தச் சுகத்தை இழக்க விரும்பவுமில்லை. ஆகமொத்தத்தில் எவ்வாறு அதனை எனது நண்பன் சரி செய்தான் என்பதே வியப்பானது தான்.

இரவு ஒரு 8 மணியிருக்கும். நண்பன் சைக்கிளை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு என்னையும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு

பிறவுண் வீதிவழியாக ஒரு சுற்றுலா சென்றான். ஆங்காங்கே மதில்களில் மல்லிகைச்செடி தென்படும் போது மெதுவாகச் சைக்கிளை நிறுத்தி மல்லிகை மொட்டுக்களைக் கொய்து பையில் போடும்படி சொல்வான். நானும் செய்தேன். ஆனால் எனக்கு ஏன் என்று விளங்கவில்லை. 'உவன் ஏதாவது முதலிரவுக்குப் போறானோ' என்று நான் எனக்குள் நினைத்துக் கொண்டேன்.

போதுமான அளவு சேர்ந்ததும் விடுதிக்கு வந்து படிக்கும் மேசையில் ஒரு ஓரத்தில் குவித்து விட்டுப் படித்தோம். 'உண்மையைச் சொல்லுங்கடா. படித்தீங்களா?' என நீங்கள் கேக்கப்படாது. விடுதிக்குப் போறதே ஊர்வம்பு அளக்கத் தானே.

நேரம் செல்லச் செல்ல ஒவ்வொரு மல்லிகை மொட்டு விரியும்போது அதன் நறுமணம் எங்கள் அறையை நிரப்பியது மட்டுமல்லாது எமக்கும் ஒரு புத்துணர்ச்சியாகவே இருந்தது. அதாவது இயற்கையாகவே நாம் அன்று air freshener ஐத் தயாரித்திருந்தோம்.

விடுமுறை என்றால் எல்லோருக்கும் விருப்பம். ஆனால் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் மட்டும் விடுமுறை வரும்போது மனம் ஏதோ சோர்ந்து விடும். நண்பர்களைப் பிரிவதா இல்லை மகிழ்ச்சியை இழப்பதா அந்தச் சோர்வுக்குக் காரணம் என்பதற்கு இன்றுவரை விடை கிடைக்கவில்லை.

வளாகத்திற்குள் சென்ற சில மாதங்களில் எமது முதலாவது வரவேற்பு பார்ட்டியில் நாம் அரங்கேற்றிய வில்லுப்பாட்டில் கடம் என்று சொல்லி கொண்டுவந்த பாளை முதலாவது அடியிலேயே உடைந்துவிட, ஒரு கணம் திகைத்த குழுவினர், உடனடியாகவே நிலமையைச் சீர் செய்து மாற்றுவழி தேடி அரங்கத்தை மகிழ்வித்த தருணங்கள் என்பது, 'எதிர் பாராத நெருக்கடிகளை நேர் கொள்ளும்போது உடனடியாகவே அதில் இருந்து எப்படி மீள்வது' என்ற பாடத்தையும் அன்று எமக்குக் கற்றுத்தந்திருந்தது.

இறுதிப் பரீட்சை முடிந்ததும் நாம் மேற்கொள்ளும் தண்ணி ஊற்றுதல் அல்லது சேறு அடித்தல் என்பதை bucketing என்று நாம் அழைப்பதுண்டு. எம்மீது யாரும் அழுக்கு பூசினாலோ அல்லது சேறு அடித்தாலோ வருகின்ற கோபங்கள் அன்று எமக்கு வரவில்லை. மாறாக அவற்றை மகிழ்வோடு ஏற்றுக்கொண்டோம். திரும்பக் கொடுக்கவும் தவறுவதில்லை.

'அவமானங்கள் என்று எதுவுமில்லை' என்ற பாடத்தைக் கற்றுக் கொடுப்பதற்குத்தான் இந்த bucketing அன்று நடந்ததோ என்று கூட இன்று எண்ணத் தோன்றுகின்றது.

இன்று நாம் அனைவரும் பிரிந்து பல்வேறு நாடுகளில் வாழ்கின்றபோதும் இந்த நிகழ்வுகளின் நினைவுகள் எம்மை நினைவால் ஒன்று சேர்க்கின்றன. அதனை எல்லோரும் உள்உணர்வுகளில் உணர்வார்கள் என்றே நினைக்கின்றேன்.

நாம் பெற்ற அதிசுட்டம் இன்று நாம் சமூக வலைத்தளங்களால் ஒருங்கிணையும் நிலையையும் பெற்றுத் தந்துள்ளது. பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட இந்த நீண்டகால நட்பு இன்றும் தொடர்கின்றது, அது சமூகவலைத்தளங்களால் மேலும் வலுப்பெற்றே வருகின்றது.

உவப்பத் தலைக்கூடி உள்ளப் பிரிதல்
அனைத்தே புலவர் தொழில். - (குறள் - 394)

மகிழ்ச்சியாகச் சேர்ந்து பழகுவதும், பிரிவு வரும் போது மனங்கலங்குவதும் கற்று அறிந்தவரின் செயல் என்கின்றது திருவள்ளுவரின் இந்தக் குறள். உண்மைதான். இந்தக் குறளின் தத்துவத்தை நாம் எமது பல்கலைக்கழக வாழ்வில் பல தடவைகள் உணர்ந்திருந்தோம்.

நான் இங்கு பதிவிட்டது ஒரு துளி அனுபவம் தான். இதனைப்போல நிறைய அனுபவங்கள் எமது பிரிவில் உள்ள அனைவரிடமும் இருக்கும். சந்தர்ப்பம் வரும்போது அவற்றை அவர்களும் பதிவிட வேண்டும் எனக் கூறி எனக்கு இந்த வாய்ப்பளித்தமைக்கு நன்றி கூறி விடைபெறுகின்றேன்.



பொன்விழாவில் தொடரும் பரிதி வழிப்பயணம்

பரிபூரணாநந்தசர்மா சசிவர்ணன்

95/96 அணி, பெளதிக விஞ்ஞானப் பிரிவு

மாணவப் பருவத்தின் பொற்காலமான பல்கலைக்கழக வாழ்வில் புதுமுக மாணவர்களாக நாம் 1996 ஆம் ஆண்டு செப்டம்பர் மாதம் 16ஆம் திகதி யாழ்ப்பாண பல்கலைக்கழக விஞ்ஞான பீடத்தில் இணைந்து கொண்டோம்.

யாழ்ப்பாணம் பல்கலைக்கழக வெள்ளிவிழாக்காலத்துடன் சேர்த்து பல்கலைக்கழக வாழ்வியலை அனுபவிக்க சந்தர்ப்பம் கிடைத்தமை எமக்கு பெருமையே. கல்வி மையத்தின் பல்வேறு மாகாணங்களில் எதிரமைக்கும் புள்ளியில் நட்புகளினை உருவாக்கி, புதியவர்களுடன் எமது வளாகப் பயணம் தொடங்கியது. அக்காலத்தில் சங்கமமான புதிய உறவுகளுடன் கூடிக்கழித்து மகிழ்ந்தவர்கள் சிலர், சிறு முறுவலினை மட்டும் உதிர்த்துவிட்டு விலகியவர்கள் சிலர், முற்றாக மௌனித்துப் போனவர்கள் சிலர் என மொத்தக் கூட்டமுமே பயணித்து புதிய சமுதாய வாழ்வின் விடியலுக்காக பசுமை நினைவுகளுடன் பட்டப் படிப்பினை நிறைவு செய்து இன்று இவ் உலகில் பரந்துபட்ட இடங்களில் வாழ்ந்துவருகின்றோம்.

விஞ்ஞான பீட மாணவர்களாக நாம் எமது கற்றல் செயல்பாடுகளுக்கு மத்தியில் விளையாட்டுத்துறை, கலைத்துறை, இலக்கியத்துறை முதலான செயற்பாடுகளிலும், சமுதாயமுன்னேற்றதிட்டங்களிலும் முன்னணியில் நின்ற ஒரு அணியாக விஞ்ஞான பீடத்தினை பெருமைப்படுத்தியமையினை இன்னாளில் நாம் நினைவு கூறுகின்றோம். சிறுகதை ஆக்கம், கவியாக்கம், மேடை நாடகம் தயாரித்து அரங்கேற்றல் என பல துறைகளில் அத்துறை சார்ந்தவர்களே பிரமிக்கும் அளவிற்கு எமது திறமைகளினைக் காட்டிய மாணவர்களாக அக்காலத்தில் பயணித்து வந்தோம்.

இத்திறமைகளை வெளிக்கொணர் 'விஞ்ஞான வாரம்' எனும் களத்தினை அந்த மூன்று ஆண்டுகளிலும் நாம் திறமையாக பயன்படுத்திக் கொண்டோம்.

'விழிச்சுடர்', 'சடங்குகள் நீந்த தகனங்கள்' போன்ற நாடகங்கள் விஞ்ஞானபீட மாணவர்களாகிய எம்மால் தயாரிக்கப்பட்டு 1998-1999 ஆம் ஆண்டு காலப்பகுதியில் யாழ்குடாநாட்டின் பல பிரதேசங்களில் பலமுறை மேடை ஏற்றிய பெருமைக்குரிய மாணவர்களாக நாம் இருந்திருக்கின்றோம். பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் நம் நட்பு உறவுகள் ஏற்படுத்திய உணர்வுகளின் நினைவுப்பதிவுகளின் பாதச்சுவட்டினை பெட்டகமாக 'பரிதிவழிப் பயணம்' எனும் பொருத்தமான பெயருடன் மறக்க முடியாத நினைவுகளினை நினைத்து ஒரு நினைவேடாக அதை வெளியிட்டு இருந்தோம். இன்று எமது பல்கலைக்கழக நண்பர்கள் பல இடங்களில் விசாலமான பல துறைகளில் பணிபுரிந்து கொண்டிருக்கின்றனர். நாம் கற்ற விஞ்ஞான பீடக் கல்வியானது அவர்களின் தொழில் துறைக்கு உந்து சக்தியாக இருக்கின்றது என்பது வெளிப்படையாக. பல்கலைக்கழகப் பட்டப்படிப்பினை பூர்த்தி செய்து இன்று 50 ஆண்டுகளினை எட்டுகின்ற இவ்வேளையில் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் பொன்விழாவில் மீண்டும் நமது நட்புக்களினை சந்திக்கின்றோம் என்பதையிட்டு மிக்க மகிழ்ச்சி.

எமது பரிதிவழிப் பயணங்கள் நீங்காத நிலைவுத்துளிகளுடன் தொடர்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கையில் இப்பொன்விழாவானது எமது நட்பு பயணத்தை மீள்புதுப்பிக்கும் என்பது உண்மையே.

நட்பு எனும் பயணம் முடிவதில்லை. பரிதி வழிப் பயணமாக அதுதொடரும்.



இருபத்து நான்கு ஆண்டின் பின் இன்று . . .

த.ஜெயசீலன்

95/96 அணி, உயிரியல் விஞ்ஞான பிரிவு

அந்த இனியகாலம் அகன்று மறைந்துபோய்
இன்று 'இருபத்து நான்காண்டு'!
'அது' எங்கள்
வாழ்வின் வசந்தகாலம்.
மனம் துள்ளிக் குதித்த காலம்.
கால் கையில் தளைகளற்று,
கனவுகளில் சிறகடித்து,
"எல்லாம் இயலும் எம்மாலே"
எனும் கர்வம்
உள்ளியக்க
வெளியே உலகளந்த புழுகத்தில்...
எல்லாமும் சித்தித்த தென்ற இறுமாப்பில்...
"நாளையென்ன" என்று
கவலையற்ற ஓர் துணிவில்...
போர் நடந்த நேரத்தில்...
'பொருட் தடைகள்' நீண்டிடையில்...
ஏதும் பெரும் வரவு இல்லாத கஷ்டத்தில்...
எட்டி நடந்து
இடர் கடந்து துணிந்து கற்று
'பட்டதாரிகளாய்' மாறி பறந்தபசும் பொற்காலம்!
எத்தனையோ அறிஞர்கள், எத்தனையோ மேதைகள்,
எத்தனையோ பேர், ஊரில் இருந்தாலும்...
எங்களையும்
"பட்டதாரிகள்" என்று பக்கத் திருந்தவர்கள்
சற்றொதுங்கி நின்று
வியந்து பார்த்தார்கள்! 'யாழ்
விஞ்ஞானபீடத்தின்'
விழுதுகள் யாம்... என்பதனால்
மெஞ்ஞானம் பெற்றிருப்பர்
என்றும் நினைத்தார்கள்!

உயர்கல்வி ஏணியில்
ஓர்படி கடந்ததற்கே
அயலிலன்று பாராட்டு...
உறவுகளின் ஆராத்தி...
பட்டதாரி மாப்பிள்ளை பொம்பிளை
என இணையைத்
திட்டமிட்டிணைக்கத்
திரிந்ததொரு கூட்டம்...
"பல்கலையில் கற்றவர்கள்

பல்கலையும் கற்றவர்கள்
வல்லவர்கள்" என்று வணங்கிற்றடா... சமூகம்...
வல்லவர்தாம்
பட்டை தீட்டிய வைரங்கள் தாம்
பல்வேறு பதவிகட்கு அடிப்படை
ஓர் பட்டம்...அதால்
முதலாம் படிக்கல்லாம்... இதனில் முயன்றேறி
விதவிதமாய் வேலைகளில்
விளைந்தோம் நாமெல்லோரும்.
கைகளிலே சம்பளம்.
கௌரவத் தொழில், வாழ்க்கை.
உய்தது குடும்பம்.
ஒருசிறிய காலத்துள்
காதலித்த கம்பஸ் காதலர்கள் கைபிடித்து,
'தேடி' மற்றோர் திருமணம் செய்து,
கொழுத்த
சீதனமும் பார்த்து,
வீடுவாசல் வாகனங்கள்
சேர்த்துக், குழந்தைபெற்று,
செழித்த பதவிகண்டு,
ஒப்பீட்டளவில் ஏதோ 'உயர்வோடே'
இப்போ நாமிருக்கின்றோம்!
'இருபத்தைந் தாண்டுகள்' முன்
எப்படி இருந்தவர்கள்
இப்படி இன்றிருக்கின்றோம்!

எப்படி மறக்க ஏலும்?
எமை வரவேற்ற பீடக்
கட்டடங்கள்,
'சீனியர்சின்' கத்தல் உறுக்கல்கள்,
"நாம் பெற்ற இன்பம் நீங்களும் பெற வேணும்" என்ற
'ராக்கிங்' ரகளைகள்,
'Welcome party' அன்பு,
ஆம் அதற்குப் பின்பு
அச்சம் பயமற்று
ஆசுவாசமாக இரசித்தாழ்ந்த
விரிவுரைகள்,
ஆதர்சமாக அறிவைப் புகட்டிய நம்
பேராசிரியர்கள், ஆசான்கள், அழித்தழித்து
ஓர்படத்தை கீறவைத்த 'Demo' மார்,

இன்றுவரை
 அமரராகி நினைவில் நிற்கும்
Prof V.K.G., பத்மினி Miss,
Prof திரு திருமதி மகேஸ்வரன், **Prof** சித்ரவடிவேல் Sir.
 சில Lecture களில் தூக்கம்,
 சிலவற்றில் கலகலப்பு,
 சிலவற்றில் 'திருதிரு வென
 முழித்ததாய்' நினைவு,
 நாங்கள் கலாய்த்த Lectures மாரின் Styleகள்,
 நாங்கள் கதையளந்த கல்இருக்கை,
 'மூன்று துறை'
 ஆய்வு கூடங்கள்,
 அதில் காலை முதல் மாலை
 வரை...பட்ட பாடுகள்,
 விட்ட பகிடுகள்,
Dissection படபடப்பு,
Titration தவிப்புகள்,
 விரிவுரைக் கிடையில்
 சிரித்துக் கதைத்தவைகள்,
 எத்தனை கிண்டல்?
 எத்தனை கடி joke கள்?
 எத்தனை நக்கல்?
 எத்தனை சீண்டல்கள்?
 எத்தனை சச்சரவு?
 எத்தனை கோபதாபம்?
 எத்தனை சண்டைகள்?
 எத்தனை சமாதானம்?
 எத்தனை உயிர்ப்பு?
 எத்தனை வகைச் சிலிர்ப்பு?
 ஈர்த்து நின்ற நட்பு,
 இடைக்கிடை சில காதல்,
 சோடிகளாய் வந்தவரின் சொப்பனங்கள்,
 வாரா வாரம்
 'Tute' எழுத அலைந்த துயர்,
 'Group study' அலப்பறைகள்,
 'Continuous assesment' கள்,
 'Practical exam',
 'Spot test' இன் ஒவ்வொரு 'மணியொலிக் கும்
 சுற்றியோட்டம்',
 'Otolith' சரிதம், 'Specimen collection' னுக்காய்
 Field visit என்னுள்ளூர்க் குளம் கடலைப் பார்த்த
 சோகம்,
 Library பொழுது,
 Canteen சுவைகள்,

வேட்டுக்கள் வீதிகளில் விழவிழ
 சோதனைச்
 சாவடிகள் தாண்டி...
 சாப்பயத்தை மீறிக்...
 கற்ற கொடுமை,
 'கம்பஸ்' I.C காட்டி
 மண்ணெண்ணை வரிசையிலே நின்றநிலை,
 எம் சக
 வன்னிப் பெடிபெட்டை வான் கடலால்
 கொழும்பு சென்றே
 வந்த இடர், அடிக்கடி ஹர்த்தால்கள் ஊர்வலங்கள்,
 சந்திகளில் Checking,
 "சண்டை" எனும் செய்திகளுள்
 ஒவ்வொரு 'Semestar' முடிய 'exam',
 அதற்காக
 எவ்வளவு முயற்சி? முடிந்த பின்
Vacation,
 'விஞ்ஞான வாரம்',
 விளையாட்டுப் போட்டிகள்,
 அன்று போட்டு.. 'பல்கலையை'
 அதிரவைத்த நாடகங்கள்,
 வென்ற கவிதைகள்,
 விவாத அரங்கங்கள்,
 பொங்கல்கள், Ponging,
Vacation சுற்றுலாக்கள்,
 சைக்கிள்களில் 'Batch mates' இன்
 வீடு வீடாய் சென்ற கதை,
 நண்பியின் வீட்டிலும்
 தியேட்டரிலும் பார்த்தபடம்,
Toddy match, பிறந்த
 நாட்களிலே 'தடைவெட்டு-
Roll Party', 'வாளி- Bucket' வைத்து வழிந்து
 திரிந்த சரிதம்,
Exhibition அனுபவங்கள்,
Room களில்...உருசி தவழ்ந்த, புகைப் பொழுது,
 முரண்களிடே Going down...
 முடிவில் வந்த பெருமகிழ்வு,
 'பட்டமளிப்புவிழாப்' பவிசு,
 குழுப் படப்பிடிப்பு,
 பட்டமளிப்பைத் தொடர்ந்து
 சிலநாட்கள்
 பாராட்டு, party வைப்பு,
 வேலைக்குக் காத்திருப்பு,
 நேற்றுப்போல் இருக்கிறது...

நினைவுகள் எம் மனக்கண்முன்
 ஊற்றாக ஓடினது!
 “ஓம்..’95/96 Bio-
 Stream’ இல் பயின்ற ‘இருபத்தாறு பேரில்’
 ஆறு பெடியள்... ‘ஆறும் ஒவ்வொரு நரிகள்’
 மீதம் பொடிச்சிகள்...
 விதவிதத் திறமையாளர்”
 அன்று மகிழ்ந்த எங்கள் Batch இல்
 அனேகமானோர்
 எங்கெங்கோ போக...
 சிலர்மட்டும் இங்குமிஞ்ச...
 எங்கள் ‘கிருபாவை’ இழந்தபின்பு
 இருப்போரை
 ‘வட்சப்’ குறாப்பில் வளைத்துப் பிடித்தாலும்...,
 கற்றகாலம் போல கடி பட்டு
 குழந்தைகளாய்
 ஓடிச் சிலபேர் ஒளிந்தாலும்...,
 எம்நட்பை...
 ஓர் ‘கால் நூற்றாண்டு’ கடந்த பின்னும்
 ‘பசுமையாக
 ஊறும் நினைவுகளால்’ அடிக்கடி உயிர்க்க வைத்தோம்!
 யாரும் நட்புகள் ஊர் வரும்போது
 கூடி ஆர்த்தோம்!
 இன்று ‘விஞ்ஞானபீடத்தின்’ ‘பொன்விழாவில்’
 நண்பரொடும்... ‘நம் முன்,
 பின் Batch’களது அன்பரொடும்...
 ஒன்றாக நின்றெம்
 ‘உருமாற்றம்’ கண்டுகிர்த்தோம்!

இன்றெங்கள் ‘மூன்றாம் அன்னை’ மடியான
 விஞ்ஞானபீடத்தைப் பார்த்து
 வியக்கின்றோம்!
 எத்தனை தள மாற்றம்?
 எத்தனை வித்தியாசம்?
 எத்தனை வேறுபாடு?
 இப்பீடம் சார்ந்தோரில்

எத்தனைபேர் ஊரில்? எத்தனைபேர் வெளிநாட்டில்?
 எத்தனைபேர் தொடர்பற்று?
 எத்தனைபேர் இன்றில்லை?
 இன்றெங்கள் பீடத்தில் சுமார் ‘இருபதே வீதம்’
 ‘நம்மவர்கள்’ என்கின்றார்!
 நம் நண்பர் பலரிங்கே
 ‘Academics’ உம் ஆகியுள்ளார்...
 அவர்களுடன் கலந்தாய்ந்து
 எக்காரணங்களாலே
 எம் இளையோர் இங்குகற்கப்
 பின்னடிக்கிறார் என்று பேசவேணும்!
 உலகெங்கும்
 உள்ள ‘யாழ் விஞ்ஞான பீட உறவுகள்’
 “பெருமை மீண்டும்
 கொண்டுவர என்னவழி”
 என்று திட்டம் கூற வேணும்!
 சுமார் ‘கால் நூற்றாண்டு’ சுழன்றோடி
 இன்றிணைந்த
 எமது நட்புகளை,
 இவர்களின் குடும்பத்தை,
 அன்னவரின் உயர்வுகளை,
 அவரின் நிலை பொறுப்பை,
 கண்டு களித்துப் பழங்கதைகளும் பறைந்து
 அன்பைப் பகிர்ந்து அளவளாவ
 வந்த இந்தச்
 சந்தர்ப்பத் தினுக்கு நன்றிசொல்லி
 “சளைக்கார்கள்
 விஞ்ஞான பீட விளைச்சல்கள் என்றுமொங்கும்”
 என்று நிமிர்ந்தோம்
 எம் பெருமையை உணர்வோம்
 எங்கெங்கோ இருந்துவந்த
 எம்சோதரர் கையைப்
 பற்றுகிறோம்
 நாளைக்கும் பற்றிப் பயணிப்போம்!
 மற்றுமொரு வாய்ப்பிருந்தால்
 ‘பவள விழாவில்’ பார்ப்போம்!



Tertiary Education of Sri Lanka in the Prospective of Skills Development

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Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training, Sri Lanka

Introduction:

Our lasting legacy of colonisation is that school education and technical training have flourished in Sri Lanka, fostering an underperforming human capital. It is universally recognised that its citizens prioritise education more than any other desire. Despite the high literacy rate of 93.3% in 2021 and the strong emphasis on education in the country, there is a significant disconnect between general education and technical training and the country's labour market. This is a pressing issue that requires immediate attention. Therefore, this article aims to analyse potential reasons for this gap and propose feasible measures for reducing it. Due to the time constraint, the scope of this writing is restricted to formal education at the tertiary level in Sri Lanka in terms of its relevance and usefulness rather than its teaching and learning standards.

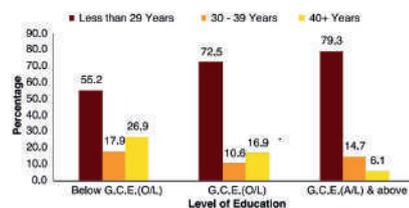
Context of potential issues:

According to the country's long history of education, the aspirations of the youth predominantly favour white-collar jobs in the public sector. More than three hundred thousand young male and female students enrolled in schools annually dream of becoming doctors, engineers, and civil servants. The aspiration for academic education is at the forefront of their choices. Unsurprisingly, most pupils are attracted to national universities and higher education institutions to fulfil their desire to obtain a degree and to work in the service sector. However, the societal stigma of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as a second-tier option is a significant barrier to employment opportunities. As a nation, we must address the skills gap and the resulting unemployment in Sri Lanka, a situation that significantly hinders our nation's development. Promoting the value of TVET is a critical step in reducing the skills gap and improving the labor market in the country. As the skills shortages directly result from these aspirational expectations, the demand for employable graduates prevents the growth of industries. It causes rising

unemployment among school leavers and university graduates. Unexpectedly, graduates from the TVET sector also face unemployment or underemployment due to skills mismatch and the absence of social and soft skills components in their training programmes. Though this situation may arise due to less work opportunities in the manufacturing industry, other industries and the international labour market are still open to skilled personnel. Graph 3.1.1.5 indicates the high unemployment rate among the persons who possess G.C.E (A/L) and above qualifications, with 79.3% of the aged group under 29 years in the 1st half of 2023 in the country. This is one of the burning issues preventing progress in Sri Lanka, as important as the country's prevailing economic crisis and financial instability. The national unemployment rate of 4.7% in 2023 and the economic downward (- 2.3 GDP growth rate) resulting in inflation (4% in 2023) have increased social issues like domestic violence, poverty, and political demonstrations, which are signs of this unproductive phase in Sri Lanka.

Source: Labour Market Information Bulletin-

Graph 3.1.1.5: Percentage Distribution of Unemployed Persons according to level of Education by Age Group - 1st half of 2023**



Vol. 1/2023 of Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission, Colombo.

Feasible measures:

The technology stream introduced in schools, jointly initiated by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Skills Development initially in 250 selected high schools in 2014, somewhat bridges general education and TVET. However, employable skills are not fully integrated into school curricula or degree programs.

Many argue that learning natural science is purely acquiring knowledge in reading degree programs and that imparting employable skills is not the core business of degree providers. However, the expectation that through learning and its ultimate objective is a higher living standard through fruitful employment is aligned with the learning principles¹ of the 21st century. Hence, learning should be meaningful not only in knowledge sharing but also in skills implanting to meet learners' career aspirations.

Skills setting and curriculum development are critical if the gap between the learning content and workplace requirements is to contract. It is imperative that universities collaboratively work with job providers and related industries to design and deliver suitable courses to enable their graduates to get employment by addressing the demand for skills requirements in the areas concerned. For this purpose, institutes must undertake networking and career guidance services to benefit their students and the nation.

An integrated curriculum is the best vehicle for incorporating workplace requirements into learning content. Many educational organisations have begun the process of enriching course content with a mixed flavour of knowledge and skills components to empower their undergraduates in areas relevant to the world of work. For that, academics receive advice from their research and development units. At the same time, training providers obtain input from sector skills councils of professionals from relevant industries to determine the competencies needed to do a job. In parallel with workshops and seminars, assignments and project work have become more popular learning methods among young adult learners. They are a potential means of sharing workplace insights while interacting with multidisciplinary personnel. Undertaking research and development work has become a part of the education providers' business. They use these avenues to train undergraduates to gain hands-on experience and industry exposure, where graduates can apply their in-house learning in a real-time work environment. This will undoubtedly increase their chances of employment through on-the-job training and internships where they gain technical know-how. Furthermore, job fairs and career expos provide opportunities for graduates to meet potential employers and explore the skills requirements in their career aspirations.

Work-related learning is not just another approach; it is an essential paradigm shift in both TVET and higher education. This integrated approach gives graduates invaluable workplace experience during their degree programs in tertiary institutes. Industry projects, fieldwork, and work simulations help graduates enhance their employability. In industry projects, students work on real-time projects at leading organisations to get work readiness experience. Research students collaborate with startups, non-profits, and corporate organisations in order to enhance mobility in their career paths. They undertake internships within the industry related to their research work or field study. Industry placements are beneficial and credible for apprentices who can gain confidence and the ability to work with modern technology. They also learn about organisational behaviours and workplace culture. These arrangements develop graduates' confidence in working in real-time environments before starting their permanent employment.

Entrepreneurship is another measure of innovative work startups that are flexible while accommodating novel ideas in business. Young graduates could start a new business or modernise their family business with the facilitation of mentors in their fields to prepare business plans and face challenges in their new business. Experienced entrepreneurs could facilitate the growth of new entrepreneurs under this arrangement. Training providers and national universities could consider these strategies when employing their young graduates. Exposing new entrepreneurs to tracer studies will inspire them to forge a pathway for themselves. The added benefit is that institutes enhance customer satisfaction and reputation by rebranding their programmes to boast employment through demand-driven education and training.

Soft skills and multi-language proficiency are not just additional assets but essential requirements for offshore employment in the globalised world. In the current scenario, countries like Sri Lanka train their manpower with a keen eye on foreign employment opportunities. Tertiary institutes are also actively seeking collaborations with multinational companies to provide direct employment opportunities for their graduates. In this context, proficiency in foreign languages is the key for those seeking to work overseas. Equally important are employable

¹ learning to know (learn), learning to do, learning to live, and learning to be.

competencies, including ICT and interpersonal skills, such as emotional intelligence, team cohesion and coordination, leadership qualities, and social attributes, which will be valuable additions to education. These skill sets are beneficial and vital when working with diverse personnel who have different social norms and cultural values. The importance of these skills for employment opportunities cannot be overstated, making them a significant focus of education and training.

As a part of embedding these soft skills and social attributes in our young undergraduates, the Jaffna University Graduates Association (JUGA) in Australia, the first alumni association, has jointly worked with the faculty of Science at the University of Jaffna. The association supported a Life Skills program for the personality development of 350 new undergraduates in 2023 in six modules². This was aligned with the Active Citizens program through community action projects developed by the British Council. Science undergraduates from various parts of the country have engaged in four days of indoor training and implemented 13 community-based projects in different themes (social responsibility and civic engagement, health and wellbeing including mental health, gender equity and equality, domestic and gender-based violence, food security and climate change) in a group setting under the able guidance and coordination of Prof. K. Gajapathy, Department of Zoology, Prof. P. Ravirajan, Dean, Faculty of Science, and Dr T. Sathiyamoorthy, Director of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. After the massive success of this initiative, JUGA has planned to conduct a similar program in collaboration with the Tamil Department of the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna.



Undergraduates engaged in indoor group activities and outdoor community projects under the Life Skills program.

Conclusion:

Although Sri Lanka has a long history of general education and technical training, its labour force is not meeting industry skills requirements for several reasons, but predominantly because of the social stigma that students in Sri Lanka prefer white-collar jobs, with TVET being their second option. As a result, unemployment is common among young graduates from training institutes and universities. Skills mismatch, lack of workplace training and exposure and absence of employable skills are a few causes of the gap between learning and competencies needed in workplaces. Integrated curriculum through industry collaboration for skills-setting and curriculum development will significantly meet the training needs of the labour force. Many training providers and higher education institutes benefit from undertaking research and project work for employers regarding internships and career opportunities for their graduates. Career guidance and mentoring for entrepreneurship also help graduates choose relevant career paths through suitable learning programmes. Acquiring soft skills, including language proficiency, equips them to compete in securing employment in the domestic and international labour markets as a value addition. Therefore, training and education must be modified from the traditional path to innovative ways to provide relevant and valuable skills and competencies to meet labour market needs as demand-driven instead of



² identity and culture, intercultural dialogue, local and global communities, planning projects, health and well-being and organisational management.



supply-driven.

I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude and well wishes to all Jaffna University alumni and staff on the milestone occasion of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our Alma Mater and invite them to work collaboratively for the betterment and well-being of our young generation.

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வாழ்க தாயே!

திருமதி றொசுற் தவநாயகம்

90/91 அணி, உயிரியல் விஞ்ஞான பிரிவு

மொட்டு விரிந்தது ஒரு பகல் வேளையில்
 மோகனம் இசைத்தது வளாகச் சோலையில்
 சிட்டுக் குருவிகளாய் நாம் சிறகை விரித்து
 சேர்ந்து கோர்த்தோம் அன்பிழை மாலையை
 எட்டு திக்கிலும் இருந்தே நாம் வந்தோம்.
 ஏற்றம்பெற இணைந்தோம் தாய்மடி சேர்ந்தோம்
 தொட்டு தூக்கியே அரவணைத்து எம்மைச் -சிகரம்
 தொட்டிட வழியைத் தந்தாள் எம் தாய்!

அன்று அணைத்திட்ட அரிய நிழலில்
 அறிவு வேண்டியொரு யாகம் புரிந்தோம்.
 கன்றுகள் போல் தினம் துள்ளித் திரிந்தோம்.
 கருத்துக்கள் பகிர்ந்து கானம் இசைத்தோம்.
 ஒன்றாய் இணைந்தோரை இடையினில் பிரிந்தோம்.
 ஈரவிழிகளால் கவிதைகள் புனைந்தோம் -நாம்
 நன்றாய் வேருடன் விழுதுகளாய் மலர்ந்திட
 நல்வழி காட்டி வளர்த்தாள் எம் தாய்!

இன்று எங்களின் வாழ்வது மிளிர்ந்திட
 இதயம் கொண்டாய் வாழ்க தாயே!
 வென்று நாம் பல விருதுகள் கண்டிட
 வடிவம் தந்தாய் வாழ்க தாயே!
 என்றும் எதிலும் உயர்ந்து நாம் மகிழ
 எம்முடன் இருந்தாய் வாழ்க தாயே! -எழுந்து
 நின்றுணைத் தொழுதோம் பொன்விழா நாயகியே
 நலமே நீடு வாழிய வாழியவே!



Acknowledgement

On behalf of the executive committee of the Faculty of Science Alumni Association, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your time, generous support, donations, sponsorships, articles and advertisements. Your commitment and enthusiasm have been instrumental in the success of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations and in the publication of this commemorative magazine.

It is because of supporters like you that we are able to continue our mission of aiding the Faculty of Science accomplish its mission of providing a world class education to the future generations. Your contributions not only help us achieve our objectives but also inspire us to strive for excellence in every endeavor.

Although we are unable to thank everyone who has contributed to making this event a success, some key person must be mentioned for their yeomen service to FoS and FoSAA.

The Dean, Professor P. Ravirajan has been at the forefront of building a supportive community for the students and staff of the Faculty of Science. FoSAA has evolved under his wise guidance.

Mr. R. Sharveswaran has been our man on the ground for organizing the Golden Jubilee event. We could not have had this event without his tireless and selfless efforts. Mr. V. S. Gunaseelan has been the captain of our association, navigating the ship out of murky waters and into a new beginning.

We thank Dr. Amalraj for keeping records of all transactions meticulously as the treasurer.

We thank Mr. Senthilmaran for rallying the Alumni in Sri Lanka to come together and unite for this worthy cause, and for helping us fill the Auditorium with Alumni and friends of FoS.

A big thank you to our Sponsors! Thanks to your generous sponsorship we have met our target for this event. Your sponsorship and membership in FoSAA are key to the growth and future success of the Faculty of Science Alumni Association. Thank JUAA (Canada) for your support and advise.

We wish to thank those who advertised in our Magazine to support the Golden Jubilee, namely Lucvaa (Canada), AYME (Iyamiddun), Andra Printers and Bank of Ceylon.

We thank the Magazine Committee members for their commitment to publish a Magazine worthy of the Faculty, and for all those who contributed articles, biographies, photos, poems, reports and overviews.

A large thanks is owed to the Department heads, and the staff assisting them, in providing comprehensive overviews of the achievements, progress, challenges and accolades of the Departments.

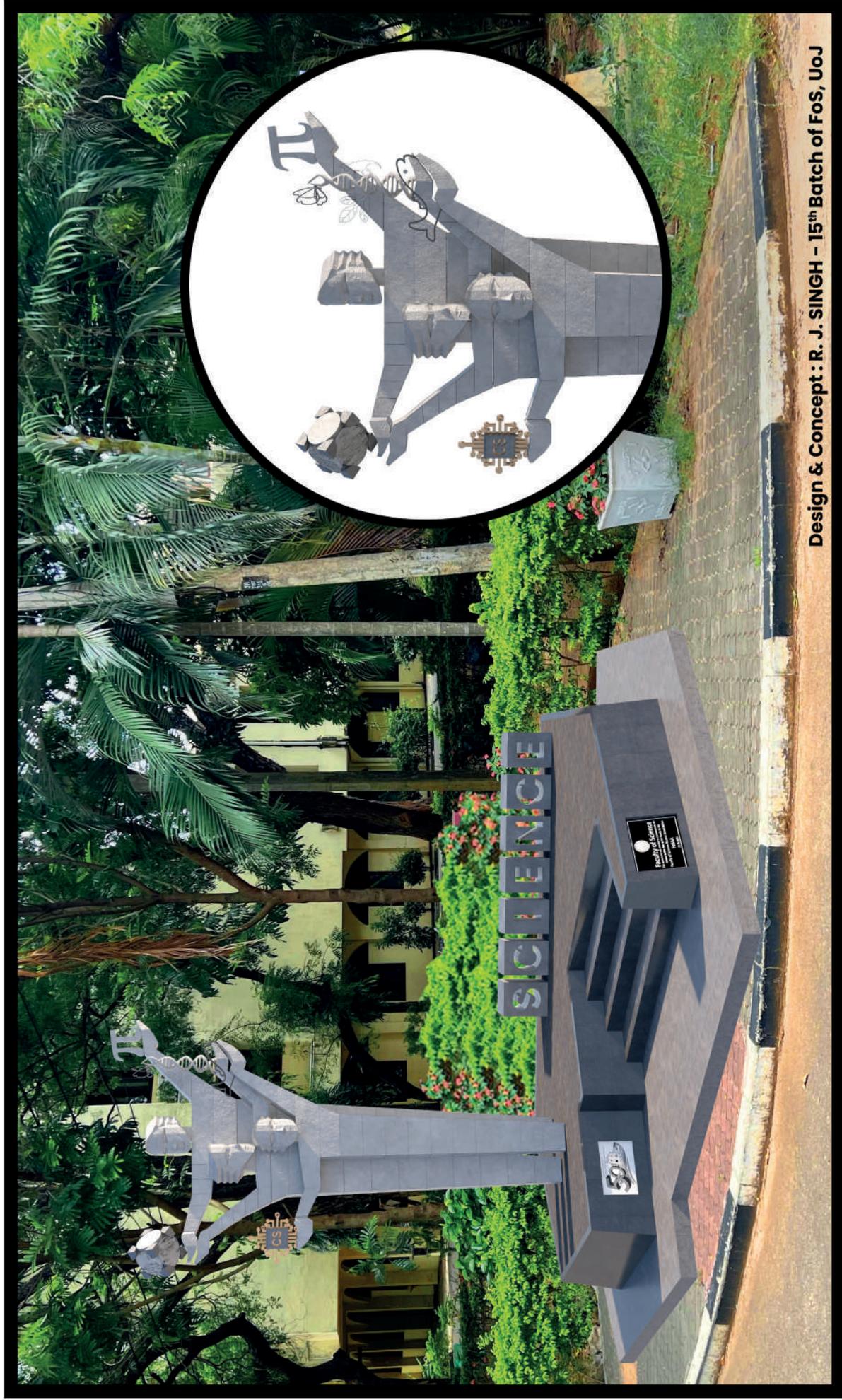
We are incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated individuals backing us. Your support has made a significant impact, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you. If you have any feedback or if there are ways, we can support you in return, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Secretary,
Faculty of Science Alumni Association
Executive Committee



Annexures

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Design & Concept : R. J. SINGH - 15th Batch of FoS, UoJ

PROPOSED MONUMENT TO COMMEMORATE GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

List of Life members and sponsors

Our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation, support and sponsorship. We welcome you to Lifetime Membership in the Faculty of Science Alumni Association and to the benefits thereof. Thank you for your efforts in making the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Faculty of Science a success! We look forward to your ideas, participation and support for the growth and development of the Faculty and Alumni of the Faculty of Science.

| Title | First Name | Last Name | Country of Residence |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
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| Dr | Eugene Yugarajah | Andrew Charles | Sri Lanka |
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| Mr. | Veluppillai | Chandrasekar | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Kalpana | Chandrasekar | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs. | Kirishanthi | Chanthuru | Canada |
| Dr. | Selvaluxmy | Chelvendran | Sri Lanka |
| Prof | Thampoe | Eswaramohan | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Kanagasabai | Ganesan | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Punitha | Ganeshwaran | UK |
| Mr. | Arulthurai | Gnanamohan | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Gnanapragasam Basil | Gnanaraj | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Sabaratanasingam | Gnanarajan | Australia |
| Prof. | Rajendramani | Gnaneswaran | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Kalinga Shyarini Rashmika | Gunachandra | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Sinnathamby | Gunaseelan | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Sonali | Herath | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Jananie | Jarachanthan | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Ishara | Jayasuriya | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Disagini | Jeyakumar | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Rajadurai | Jeyaruban | UK |
| Mr. | Rajasoundram | Joe Inparaj | Sri Lanka |
| Prof. | Jayasingam | Jeyasugiththan | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Aliyar Lebbe | Joufer Sadique | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Kanapathipillai | Kajapathy | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Ratnam | Kajendrakumar | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Sivakalai | Kaneshamoorthy | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Ratneswary | Karalasingham | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Sinnathamby | Karuna | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Thabotharan | Kathiravelu | Sri Lanka |
| Prof. | Sivashanthini | Kuganathan | Sri Lanka |

| | | | |
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| Mr. | Tharmalingam | Loganathan | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Joy Karunya | Mahendiran | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Rajasivasakthy | Mahesan | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Sinnathamby | Mahesan | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Rajini | Mangaleswarasharma | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Mathula | Manokaran | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Mahathevan | Mathanakumar | UK |
| Mr. | Sanjeevan | Mathialagan | Canada |
| Miss | Kajani | Mayaheswaran | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Luckshika | Michael Rajakumar | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Christopher Anton | Mohanras | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Fathima Fasmina | Mohammedhu Fawser | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Murugiah | Muraleetharan | USA |
| Dr | Shanthini | Mylvaganam | Canada |
| Dr | Murugesapillai | Mylvaganam | Canada |
| Mr. | William Shanthakumar | Nallaiah | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Haniffa Mohamed | Nasir | Oman |
| Miss | Bhashini | Nawodya | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Dhilani | Nelson Nithiyananthan | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Janaki | Nicholas | UK |
| Mrs | Ragini | Nithianandan | Australia |
| Mrs. | Malini | Nithiyanandan | Canada |
| Mr. | Meera Muhiadeen | Nizar Deen | Sri Lanka |
| Prof. | Thayaparan | Paramanathan | USA |
| Mr. | Sivananthan | Pathmanathan | Australia |
| Dr | Thirunavukkarasu | Pathmathas | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Amalraj | Peter Amalathas | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Manoranchini | Piranavan | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Jasotha | Prabagar | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Ravi | Prabaharan | UK |
| Miss | Tharshana | Pratheepan | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs. | Vasanthini | Pratheeswaran (nee Nagarajah) | UK |
| Dr | Velmurugu | Puvanendran | Norway |
| Mrs | Daisy Chandrika | Puvanendran | Norway |
| Mr. | Sinnappu | R. Aickiyaseelan | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Shanthy | Rahulotchanan | UK |
| Miss | Archchana | Rajavinayagam | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Dayalini | Rajeenthiran | Australia |
| Mrs | Shanthymathy | Rajenthiran | USA |
| Mrs. | Gowri | Ramanah | Sri Lanka |
| Prof | Amirthalingam | Ramanan | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Rajamanokari | Rasalingam | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Jarachanthan | Ratnakumar | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Livek | Ratnarajah | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Nithiyagowry | Ratnasabapathy | Sri Lanka |
| Ms | Nirmala | Ravimannan | Sri Lanka |

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Mrs | Sasikala | Raviraj | Sri Lanka |
| Prof | Punniamoorthy | Ravirajan | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Kulasabanathan | Romeshun | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Shanthini | Saminathan | Canada |
| Mr | Chamath | Sanjana | Sri Lanka |
| Prof. | Sivananthan | Sarasanandarajah | Australia |
| Dr | Gita | Sathianathan | USA |
| Mrs | Premi | Sellathurai | Australia |
| Mr. | Ratnam | Senthilmaran | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs. | Paheerathy | Senthilmaran | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Tharmalingam | Senthilmohan | Australia |
| Dr. | Revathy | Senthilmohan | Australia |
| Prof | Meena | Senthilnanthanan | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Ganeshan | Senthilnathan | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Raajini | Senthuran | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Buddhika Srimal | Sesath | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Parapari | Shanmugasundaram | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Maheswaran | Shanthakumar | UK |
| Mr | Ratnasingam | Sharveswara | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Vaithiyalingam | Shutthanandan | USA |
| Mrs | Thanusha | Sivaganeshan | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Rasaratnam | Sivakumar | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Kathirithamby | Sivanandan | UK |
| Mr. | Ponnampalam | Sivananthan | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Sornathevy | Sivananthan | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Sivalingam | Sivanesan | USA |
| Mr | Kathirgamar | Sivarajah | UK |
| Dr | Abyerami | Sivaruban | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Mylupillai | Sivaruban | USA |
| Mr | Thirunavukkarasu | Sivashanmuganathan | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Arthiyam | Sivasingham | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Savithiri | Sivathanan | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Balasingam | Srigengan | UK |
| Dr | Vijayaluxmy | Srigengan | UK |
| Mr. | Nagarasa | Srikanth | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Somasundaram | Srikathirgamanathan | Canada |
| Dr. | Sivasinthujah | Srikokulan | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Thambithurai | Sritharan | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Sinnathamby | Sritharan | USA |
| Miss | S | Srithevi | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Vincent | Stanis Paulrajah | Sri Lanka |
| Dr. | Prabagar | Subramaniam | Sri Lanka |
| Miss. | Suganthi | Sundaramoorthy | UK |
| Prof. | Sinnathamby Noble | Surendran | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Kokularathai | Surendraraj | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Kandasamy | Suthaharan | Sri Lanka |

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|------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Mr | Somaskandan | Suthakar | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Sellathurai | Suthakaran | Canada |
| Mrs. | Sathyaruban | Sutharshiny | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Vanniasingam | Thanapalasingam | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs. | Annammah | Thangarajah | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Kokul | Thanikasalam | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Mathavanayakam | Thanushan | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Rajaramanan | Tharmakularasa | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs. | Meenalogini | Thayaparan | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Selvarasa | Theivaseelan | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Arunasalam | Thevakaran | Sri Lanka |
| Prof | Sam | Thiagalingam | USA |
| Ms | Kajana | Thirunavukarasu | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Varatharasa | Thiviyathan | USA |
| Ms | Vasuki | Thuraichelvan | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Vethanayakam Silva Benniya | Thuseetharan | Sri Lanka |
| Mrs | Dushyanthi | Thuseetharan | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Sutharsini | Ubenthiran | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Sivananthan | Vallipuram | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Gritharan | Velayutham | Sri Lanka |
| Ms | Kumudini | Velayuthapillai | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Seenirasa | Vijayakumar | Sri Lanka |
| Mr. | Ponnampalam | Vijayakumaran | Sri Lanka |
| Miss | Thilaksika | Visayakumaran | Sri Lanka |
| Mr | Kumaraswamy | Viththiyakaran | UK |
| Mr. | Thevarajah | Vyramuthu | Australia |
| Mrs. | Yasasi | Wanasinghe | Sri Lanka |
| Dr | Thulasitha | William Shanthakumar | Sri Lanka |

Report on THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE organised by 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.

The main stage decoration for the event was designed to reflect the transition of the last 50 years, symbolizing the journey from the past to the present. This theme was brought to life on stage with the valuable assistance of Prof. P. Thayaparan and Dr(Mrs.) Janani Thevananth.

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.

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



The traditional lighting of the lamp was performed by the esteemed chief guests, including former Deans of the Faculty, Emeritus Professors Kandasamy and Kumaravadivel, along with their wives; Vice-Chancellor Professor S. Srisatkunarajah; former Vice-Chancellor Professor S. Mohanadas; Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor P. Ravirajan; Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor S. Raghuram; Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor S. Surendrakumar; Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, Professor N. Kengatharan; Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. A. Kaneshwaran; Council member and alumnus Mr. Uthayakumar; President of FoSAA, Mr. S. Gunaseelan; Secretary of FoSAA, Prof. Gita Sathianathan; and Principal of Jaffna Hindu College 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 the students of Mrs. Priyadharshini's Narthana Kshetra dance Academy very gracefully, with melodious voices singing Madurai's Saint Arunagirinathar's Athiththiru muthai tharu paadal. Special thanks are due to Priyadharshini Vaheesan, Adithya Jeyapalan, Arumainathan Shanmugapriyan, Sivagnanasundaram Jude, Kanishkuru Sharma and students of the dance school for their wonderful

contribution. Children of the guests were entertained in another hall with dance, drama and music under the guidance of Mr. Sasivarman, Mr. Sethuvarman and Dr. (Mrs.) Janani Thevananth. 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 on 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, Prof. 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 establishing 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 Prof. 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 a 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 S. Srisatkunarajah, eloquently discussed the remarkable scientific contributions of the alumni in the fields of science, engineering, and technology. His thought-provoking address, which seamlessly intertwined science and 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, Ganesalingam, Murugavel, and many others, who have laid the foundation of knowledge, quenching our thirst for wisdom through their sacrifices.

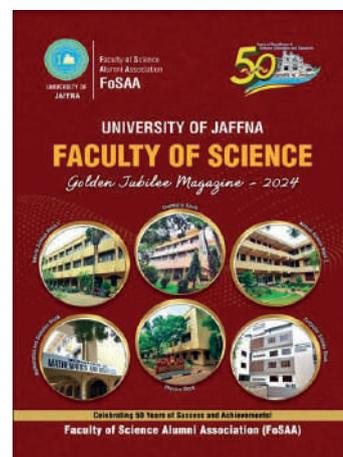
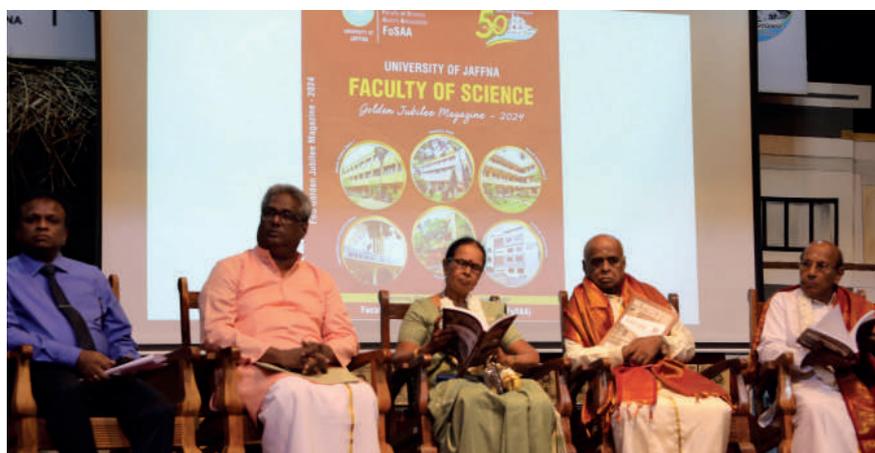
Faculty of Science Alumni Association (FoSAA) members were invited to honour the esteemed Professors and Guests of Honor. They were garlanded, offered a golden shawl (Ponnaadai Porthal), and awarded a Plaque embedded with a miniature Bi Centenary commemorative monument. The audience gave a standing ovation 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 Sathianathan (USA). Former Government Agent Mr. Vethanayagam awarded the bi-centenary commemorative Plaque to Professor Kumaravadivel.



Surveyor General of the Northern Province Mr.P. 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 bi- centennial Commemorative award to Professor Srisatkunarajah. Alumni Mr. Sadique, registrar of the Moratuwa University was called upon to honour the Vice Chancellor with Ponnadai. The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Senior Professor P. Ravirajan was honoured by Mr. V. Sivananthan, AGM/Bank of Ceylon, Northern Province.



The Magazine release followed, with Professors Meena Senthilnathanan, 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 Senthilnathanan 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. Electronic copy of the Magazine will be made available on the alumni site.



The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Senior Professor P. Ravirajan, warmly welcomed alumni from around the world who had gathered to celebrate fifty years of dedication, resilience, and commitment to academic excellence. He highlighted the Faculty’s historic achievements, significant milestones, and profound contributions to science education. Acknowledging the challenges the Faculty has faced—including periods of unrest and the global COVID-19 pandemic—Professor Ravirajan emphasised how these trials have only served to strengthen the faculty, shaping it into a centre of world-class science education and research.

He spoke with passion about the newly strengthened alumni relationships, underscoring their importance in reinforcing the bonds between graduates and the University, while fostering valuable networks to support 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 proud legacy, Professor Ravirajan noted how its graduates have gone on to become leaders in academia, industry, and public service, bringing great prestige to their alma mater. While honouring the past, he expressed strong confidence in the future, calling for continued support, collaboration, and engagement from the alumni community.

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 with gratitude the presence of alumni who had travelled from across the country and overseas, whose participation added a special significance to the celebration. Looking ahead, he encouraged sustained alumni involvement to support the continued growth and success of the Faculty of Science.

Memorabilia commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Faculty of Science were on sale outside the dinner venue in the Student Complex. Commemorative insignia and logo inscribed T-shirts, Magazines, mugs, Pens, and other items were made available to the guests at nominal prices. They will be made available online at the FoSAA Website <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. Dhanenthini, Mrudangam by Mr. Aranraj, Tabla by Mr. Janil Sankar, and vocalist and musician Mr. Arunachalam.

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.

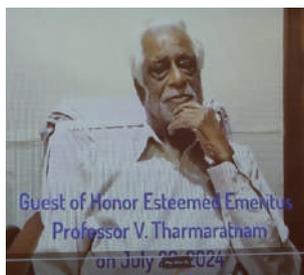
Academic Staff who celebrated 25 years or more of service to FoS were honoured with a commemorative plaque, namely, Prof. Sivasanthi Kuganathan (Fisheries), Prof. Meena Senthilnathanan (Chemistry), Prof. R. Srikanan (Chemistry), Ms. R. Nithiyagowry (Zoology), Dr. Namagal Krishnapillai (Botany), Mrs. N. Ravimannan (Botany), Mrs. K. Niranjana (Botany), Prof. 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.

Guests were invited to dinner at the beautifully decorated Student Complex building following the programme.



| No. | 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 |
| 17. | Mr. Karthigesu Kukulabalan | Maths & Stats | Retired |
| 18. | Mr.P. Uthayakumar | Chemistry | Retired |
| 19. | Mr. N. Tharmakulasingham | 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 |



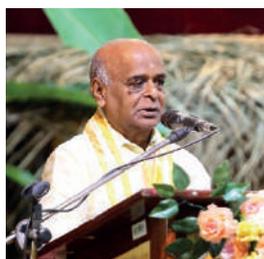
Esteemed Professor V. Tharmaratnam was incapacitated and unfortunately could not attend the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. However, a video capturing his message of his good will and best wishes for the event was broadcasted to the audience. He expressed his regret at not being able to attend the event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

Former Dean of the Faculty of Science and Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna,



Professor R. Kumaravadivel, addressed the audience in both English and Tamil, sharing his wisdom, inspiration, and unique experiences as Dean and Professor in the Department of Computer Science during challenging times. He praised the Faculty as second to none on the island and acknowledged the immense contributions of Professors Kanagasabapathy, K. Kunaratnam, and others who worked tirelessly to lay the foundations of this esteemed institution. The welfare of the University, he noted, was always their foremost priority. By their example, they instilled a deep sense of service and commitment to the public good.

Professor Kumaravadivel reflected on the losses endured during periods of unrest and highlighted the remarkable resilience with which the Faculty upheld the institution—through self-sacrifice, unwavering dedication, and altruism. He observed that the principle and values-driven leadership of the past had shaped a strong tradition of ethical and thoughtful administration. He concluded by emphasising the enduring importance of upholding academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and intellectual independence, placing these above narrow, self-serving pursuits.



Former Dean and Competent Authority of University of Jaffna Professor K. Kandasamy spoke of establishing the Faculty of Science at the Jaffna College in Vaddukodai 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. This was presented by the President of FoSAA, Mr. V. Gunaseelan, along with the Secretary, Prof. 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 Senthilnathanan, 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 for organising the blood donation camp. He acknowledged 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 appreciated the contributions of Mr. Ganeshanathan for facilitating the cricket match, Mr. Jeyasingharajah for thoughtfully designing the tokens of appreciation presented to the deans and academic staff, the Director of the Physical Education Unit, Dr (Mrs) Janani Thevananth, for her role in the active theatre programme, Mr. Kumaran of the Meals Committee, and the alumni and their families for their dedicated support and enthusiastic participation in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Following the vote of thanks, the guests were invited to a dinner hosted by FoSAA at the Student Complex, where they were treated to a musical programme organised by Mr. Suthakaran, former President of the Jaffna University Alumni Association (JUAA) Canada. A sumptuous dinner was provided and enjoyed by all those attending the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.



Photos Courtesy of Dr. Velmurugu Puvanendran, Alumnus 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:

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

- **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.
- **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.
- **Blood Drive:** Thanks to all involved in organizing the blood drive held before the celebrations, making a meaningful impact on our community.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Traveling from Overseas:** We are especially grateful to those who traveled from abroad to attend and contribute to the event in person.
- **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.

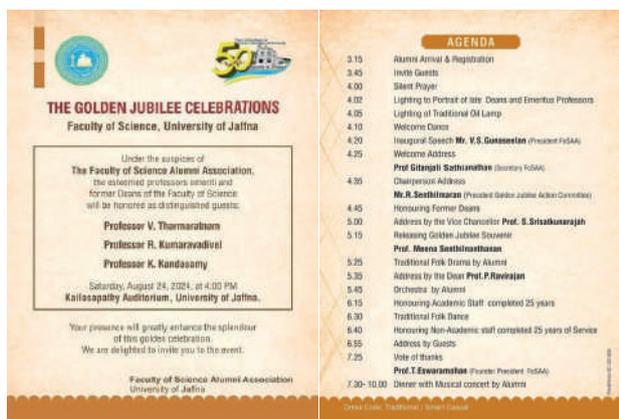
Finally, a big thank you to everyone who volunteered and contributed in numerous ways, making the Golden Jubilee Celebrations a tremendous success. Your dedication and hard work were truly appreciated and made this event a remarkable achievement for the Faculty of Science Alumni Association.

Prof. Gita Sathianathan
Secretary, FoSAA

Useful Links from the Golden Jubilee Celebration organised by FoSAA can be accessed here:

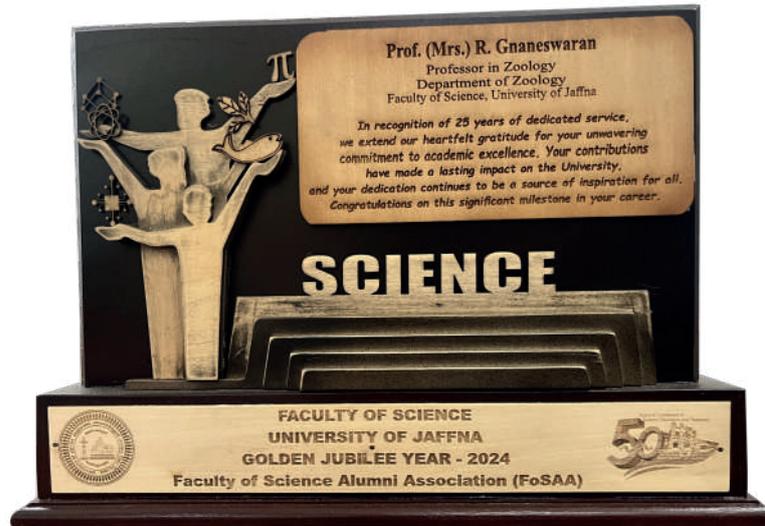


Invitation card

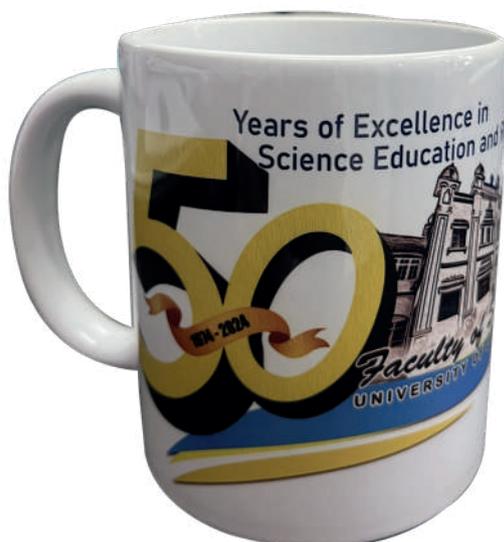


FoSAA Website

Token of appreciations



Souvenirs



**Faculty of Science Alumni Association
University of Jaffna**

Executive Committee (2023/2024)



Mr. S. Gunaseelan
President



Prof. T. Eswaramohan
Past President



Mr. V. Sivananthan
Vice President



Dr. Gita Sathianathan
Secretary



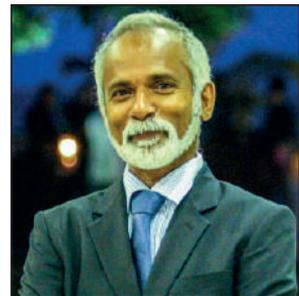
Dr. A. Peter Amalathas
Treasurer



Prof. P. Ravirajan
Dean-Science (Ex-officio)



Dr. V. Thiviyathan
Chairperson
(Fundraising)



Dr. V. Puvanendran
Chairperson
(Outreach)



Prof. P. Thayaparan
Committee Member



Dr. U. Sutharsini
Committee Member



Dr. E.Y.A. Charles
Committee Member



Mr. R. Sharveswara
Committee Member



Prof. S. Sivananthan
Committee Member



Dr. M. Shanthini
Committee Member



Prof. J. Jeyasugithan
Committee Member



Mr. C.S. Liyana Arachchi
Committee Member



Mr. A. Thangarajah
Committee Member



Faculty of Science Alumni Association University of Jaffna

Founding Executive Committee (2022/2023)

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| President: | Prof. T. Eswaramohan |
| Vice-President: | Mr. S. Suthakar |
| Secretary: | Dr. P. Thayaparan |
| Treasurer: | Dr. P. A. Amalraj |
| Dean of the Faculty (Ex-officio): | Prof. P. Ravirajan |
| Chairperson Fundraising Committee: | Prof. V. Thiviyanathan |
| Chairperson Outreach Committee: | Prof. G. Sathianathan |
| Committee Members : | Dr. Ms. S. Yohi |
| | Prof. A. Ramanan |
| | Dr. A. Thevakaran |
| | Ms. S. Randima |
| | Mrs. S. Mylvaganam |

Golden Jubilee Committees

1. Golden Jubilee Action Committee

Mr. Nagalingam Vethanayahan
 Mr. Subramaniam Muralitharan
 Mr. Sinnathampy Gunaseelan
 Mr. Rajaratnam Kumaran
 Mr. Ratnam Senthilmaran
 Dr. Rajini Subramaniasarma
 Dr. Janani Thevananth
 Mrs. Rajasivasakthy Maheshan
 Mr. Srisethuparan Srijeagaratchagamoorthy
 Mr. Paripporananthasharam Sasivarnan
 Mr. Ganeshapillai Vijayakuamr
 Mr. Yogalingam Kuhathas
 Mr. Balachanthiran Nirooparaj
 Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara
 Mr. Subramaniam Ainkaran
 Mr. Kanthasamy Vanimuhunthan

2. Golden Jubilee Fundraising Committee

Dr. Peter Amalathas Amalraj
 Mr. Sinnathampy Gunaseelan
 Dr. Gita Sathianathan
 Dr. V. Puvanendran
 Mr. Vallipuram Sivananthan

3. Publicity Committee

Mr. Sinnathampy Gunaseelan
 Dr. E.Y.ACharles
 Mr. Nageswaran Thileepan
 Mr. Ratnam Senthilmaran
 Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara
 Mr. Paripooranantha Sharma Sasivarnan
 Mr. Thalayasingam Jegarajeeban

4. Magazine Committee

Dr. Gita Sathianathan
 Dr. E.Y.A Charles
 Mr. K. Sivanandan
 Mr. R. Sharveswara
 Prof. P. Ravirajan
 Dr. S. Mahesan
 Prof. A. Ramanan
 Prof. S.N. Surendran
 Prof. Meena Senthilnathanan
 Mrs. R. Mahesan

5. Theme Song Committee

Mr. Paripooranantha sharma Sasivarnan
 Mrs. Mathuvanthi Birapanchan
 Mr. Shanmuganathan Koventhan
 Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara

6. Event Management Committee

Mr. Rajaratnam Kumaran
 Dr. Janani Thevananth
 Mr. Subramaniam Ainkaran
 Mr. Pakeerathy Senthilmaran
 Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara

7. Food Committee

Mr. Rajaratnam Kumaran
 Dr. Peter Amalathas Amalraj
 Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara
 Mr. Ratnam Senthilmaran
 Mr. Selvarajah Kajenthiran
 Mr. Peter Jeyarasah Jeyamarino
 Mr. Magenthirarajah Jeyanthan
 Mr. Theiventhiran Sasirankan
 Mr. Manchukan Sopraj
 Mr. S.Pirathaban
 Mr. Krishnan Akilan
 Mr. Patgunarasa Biratheeban
 Mr. Yokendran Kugathas
 Mr. Sivasubramaniam Sivaraj
 Mr. Sivarajah Lambotheran
 Mr. Srikantha Iynkaran

8. Musical Concert Committee

Mr. Sellathurai Suthakaran
 Dr. Mrs. Abyerami Sivaruban
 Mr. Arumugam Thankarajah
 Mrs. Kanapratheep Thanenthini
 Mr. Ponniah Aravinthan
 Mr. Appathurai Thayaparan
 Mr. Soundaram Thasis Thoumiyan
 Mrs. Kirupalini Sayanthan
 Mrs. Birapanchan Mathuvanthi
 Mr. Rajendram Imayakaran
 Mr. Ariyaratnam Kanisto
 Mr. Nadarajah Vakeesan
 Mrs. Irine Sophia Sivaruban
 Mr. Rajanathan Ragubalan

9. Blood Donation Committee

Mr. Krishnan Akilan
 Mr. Paripooranantha Sharma Sasivarnan
 Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara
 Mr. Thilainathan Aranraj
 Dr. Peter Amalathas Amalraj
 Mr. Ponniah Aravinthan
 Mr. Peter Jeyarasah Jeyamarino

10. Financial Management Committee

Dr. Peter Amalathas Amalraj
Mr. Ganeshapillai Vijayakumar
Mr. Sathiyamoorthy
Mr. Srikanthan Iynkaran
Mr. K.Rameshnesan
Mr. Rajasundaram Jor Inparaj
Mr. Sebastiyampillai Sharthrah Niroshan

11. Guest Honoured Committee

Prof. P. Thayaparan
Dr. V. Thiviyathan
Dr. V. Puvanendran
Prof. S. Sivanandan
Mr. Nagalingam Vethanayahan
Mr. Ponnampalam Sivananthan
Mr. Sinnathamby Karuna
Mr. Subramaniyam Muralitharan
Mrs. Rajasakthy Maheshan
Mrs. Sriranganayaky Srisatgurunathan

12. Academic Staff Honoured Committee

Mr. Subramaniyam Muralitharan
Mr. Elanganathan Surendranathan
Mr. Ratna Krishnarasa
Mr. Kandasamy Murugaverl
Mr. Nadarajah Vijayarahaven
Mr. Arumugam Thangarajah
Mrs. Annamah Thangarajah

13. Non-Academic Staff Honoured Committee

Mr. Subramaniyam Ainkaran
Mr. Pakeerathy Senthilmaran
Mr. Srisethuparan Srijegaratchagamoorthy
Mr. Shanmuganathan Koventhan

14. Participant Registration Committee

Prof. Thampoe Eswaramohan
Dr. Janani Thevananth
Dr. Rajni Subramaniasarma
Mr. Srisethuparan Srijegaratchagamoorthy
Mr. Selvaratnam Sarutharshan
Mr. Somasundram Mayooraan
Mr. Thevaratnam Thevatharshan
Mr. Pakeerathy Senthilmaran
Mr. Sivasubramaniyam Sivaraj
Mr. Thillainathan Aranraj
Mr. Selvaratnam Thasikaran
Mrs. Keerthika Sharthrak Niroshan
Mrs. Birapanchan Mathuvanth
Mrs. Paheerathy Senthilmaran

15. Monument Committee

Mr. Sinnathampy Gunaseelan
Mr. R.J.Singh
Prof. Thampoe Eswaramohan
Prof. Puniyamoorthy Ravirajan
Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara

16. Mementos Preparing Committee

Mr. Paripooranantha sharma Sasivarnasharma
Mr. R.J. Singh
Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara
Mr. Ratnam Senthilmaran

17. Sports Committee

Dr. Rajasingam Pirashanthan
Mr. Sivarajah Lampotharan
Mrs. Sharthrak Niroshan Keerthika
Mr. Mathialagan Eswaralingam
Mr. Sanmugasundaram Thirukumaran

18. Cultural Competition Committee

Mr. Thanpalasingam Jeyaseelan
Mr. Paripoorananthasharma Sasivarnasharma
Mr. Thayaparan Ragavan
Dr. Janani Theveanath
Mr. Srisethuparan Srijegaratchagamoorthy
Mr. Shanmuganathan Koventhan
Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara

19. School-level Competition Committee

Mr. Ponnuthurai Aynkaraneshan
Dr. Ananthamyl Nithlavaranan
Dr. Janani Thevananth
Dr. Murugathas Thanikaiselvan
Mr. Somasundram Mayooraan
Mr. Subramaniyam Garigaraganapathy
Mr. Kanagasivanajakam Kajenthiran
Mr. Rasaratnam Sivakumar
Mr. Rajendram Imayakaran
Mr. Ponnampalam Atheesan
Mr. Patgunarasa Biratheeban
Mr. Theiventhiran Sasirankan
Mr. Kunasingam Piratheepan
Mr. Ratnasingam Sharveswara



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka 1st Batch: (Academic Year 1974/1975) - Pioneers (Physical Science & Humanities)



- Seated (L - R) :** C.Nallaiathan, K. Sivarajah, H. S. B. Siyambalapatiya, S. S. De Silva, Messrs. A. M. K. Abeykoon, N. Mahesan, Mrs Y. Ganesalingam, Messrs. A. Kanapathipillai, G. Sivagurunathan, S. Sathiyaseelan, Mrs. N. Selvarajah, Mr. K. Ramatille (Asst. Treasurer), Prof. V. K. Ganesalingam, Prof. K. Kallashanathakurakkal, Mr. K. P. G. Wijayasundara (Deputy Registrar), Prof. P. Kanagasabapathy (Dean Science), Mr. L. H. Sumanadasa (Vice Chancellor), Prof. K. Kailasapathy (President), Prof. K. Indrapala (Dean Humanities), Prof. K. Kinaratnam, Mr. R. S. Thambiah (Librarian in charge), Dr. S. Mageswaran, Dr. J. B. Selliah, J. H. Ariyaratnam (Asst. Registrar/Personnel & Student Welfare), V. Sivasamy, R. Mathanathan, N. Perinpanathan, K. Kandasamy, Messrs. S. Wannigatunge, H. Balasunaram, T. Ponnudurai
- Standing 1st Row (L - R) :** Messrs. A. Wimalathasan, E. Karunanithy, S. Nirmalan, K. Sivanandan, A. Parameswaran, Misses. I. K. R. Pushpa, I. G. N. Fernando, P. L. C. Perera, M. A. I. S Mathanayake, U. K. D. D. A. Hemachandra, M. A. P. Fernando, K. D. Chandra, T. Thuraisamy, R. Selvarajah, M. Sinnathambi, S. Pathmanathan, Y. Arumugam, R. Ganesan, S. Rajaratnam, S. Sellathurai, V. Namasivayam, S. Sathkumam, V. Mailvaganam, T. Mudithiah, M. S. Innasimuthu, S. Visvalingam, P. Paripurananatha, K. Nadarajah, V. Somasundaram, K. Murugesu, P. Thambirajah, S. Balasubramaniya Iyar (Arts), S. Kanagasabai (Arts), R. Velantham (Arts), Messrs. R. Rajkumar, S. Thiruloganathan, N. P. Parakrama Vijithakumara, K. V. Wickramaratna
- Standing 2nd Row (L - R) :** C. P. Yogeswaran, V. Sabanayakam, S. Visahan (Arts), S. Mayavan, K. N. Perera, H. K. Y. R. Gunasekara, H. S. De Silva, S. Sivanantham, A. Rex Stephen, N. Mahesan, K. Sriskandarajah, S. Sapanathan, K. Ganesanesan, E. A. Selvanathan, M. Pararasa, S. Balasubramaniam, E. S. Selvendran, A. Sivapalan, S. Shanmuganathan (Arts), K. K. P. R. Alwis, V. A. Fernando, K. J. G. S. Perera, G. Meepagala, K. Ganendra, P. Sivarajah, P. Kuganeyan, S. J. Hashanayake, D. De Rosairo, W. N. Wickramasinghe, A. W. Embuldeniya, I. Gunaratnarajah, M. Gopalakrishnan, H. G. D. Sumanapala
- Standing 3rd Row (L - R) :** A. Anandeswaran, A. Santhirakumaran, P. Vigneswaran, S. V. Emmanuel, A. S. R. Patrick, R. R. Thevarajah, C. Thiyaynesan, R. Thangamayil, K. Thovarajah, A. Thavaraja, F. E. Y. Thomas, G. A. N. R. Ganepola, D. C. A. Gunawardena, J. Thirukumar, R. B. Vasanthakumar, A. L. Rajapaksa, A. H. H. J. G. Perera, W. A. D. Wijayasiri, D. T. Kingsly Bernard, S. Sivanesan, R. Rajkumar, N. Sivarajan, S. Jayarajah, K. Selvaivel, S. Maheswaran, P. Thillainadarajah
- Absentees :** Messrs S. Jeyakumar, J. M. Krishanthana Silva, V. Vasantha De Silva, R. Rajeswaran, V. Raveendran, K. Dayananda, Anton Christian



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
2nd Batch: (Academic Year 1975/1976)– Science (Physical & Biological Sciences)



Seated (L - R) : K. Ganesan, N. Tharmarajah, A. L. J. Sadique, N. Kularajendra, G. T. Jeyaseelan, S. Vijayenthiran, K. Arulanantham, R. Thavarajah, S. Sritharan, S. Sivananthan, R. Thangarasa, V. Wimalendran, S. Sarvananda

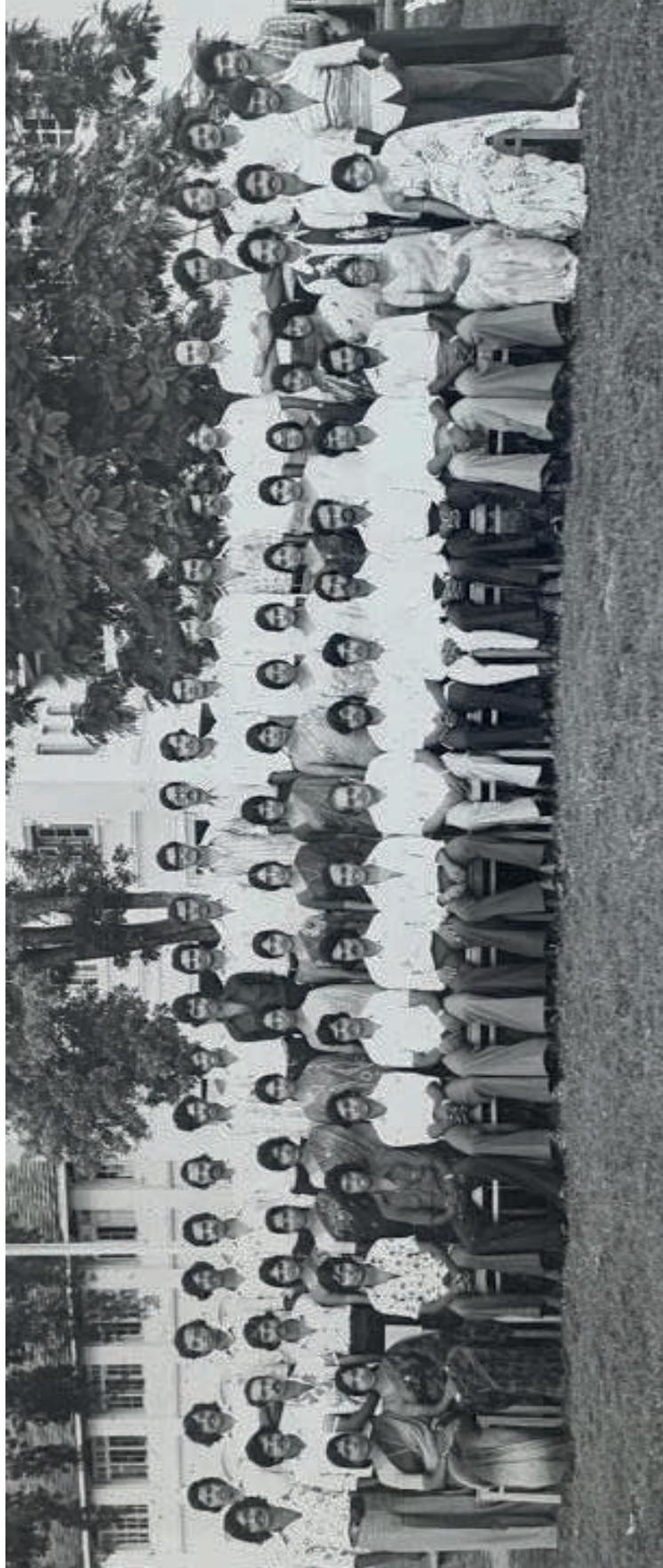
Standing 1st Row (L - R) : S. Logeswary, S. Kalyani, N. Jeyanthi, S. Nalajini, N. Vijayalakshmy, R. Meenalognini, K. LakshmiKantha, A. Lalitha, M. Shanithini, S. Annette, A. Antoinette, P. Sinthu (Jeganathasivamani), S. Selvamadar, R. Mahaluxmy, K. Malini

Standing 2nd Row (L - R) : S. Ganesanathan, T. Thiyaigalingam, E. Jeyarajah, M. Vinayagamoorthy, A. Sivachandran, S. Gerad, I. L. A. Jabbar, V. Gimasekaran, K. Pakiyarajah, A. Satkanarajah, T. Ponnampalam, S. Perinparajah, N. Sundaralingam, S. Sivakumar, U. Kalapathy, S. Gnanarajan, B. Sivapiragasam, N., Sivapalan

Absentees : I. S. Mathar, S. Dharmakeerthi, Kathiravepillai, Mahadevan



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka 3rd Batch: (Academic Year 1976/1979) – Science (Physical & Biological Sciences)



Seated (L - R) : M. Sarojadevi, M. Thillampalam, S. Velumylum, K. Sithampalam, M. Jeyakumar, V. Arasaratnam, A. Umaelebbe, Dr. V. Ramachandran, Prof. S. Vidyamanthan (Vice Chancellor), T. N. Kanagavelrajah, K. Pushpanathan, P. C. P. Jaufar, M. S. M. Aslah, S. Thidalingam, M. Rajaratnam, N. Vatan, T. Thevarani

Standing 1st Row (L - R) : J. V. Thanaraj, A. Suhanthiranathan, P. Thurairatnam, K. N. Gnanaswaran, P. Shiyamini, A. Sushiladevi, N. Kohiladevi, R. Vasugi, S. Shvambikai, A. Florence, T. Indradevi, C. Shanthini devi, S. Kanthimathy, S. Rathithevi, R. Suvendirini, S. Sulojana, Mrs. M. A. Rajasingam, Miss. A. Arunugan, Miss. R. Velauthan, Miss. K. Sabanayagam, T. Gnanarajah, J. R. Devaraja, S. Ratmanesan

Standing 2nd Row (L - R) :- K. Sithamparanathan, S. Selvaratnam, Gnanaswaran, T. Thavendrarajah K. Kasthasan, S. Thillainathan, K. Kunendrarajah, S. Mahalingam, R. Pirabakaran, G. Saverimuttu, S. Kalaiselvan, K. Hariharan, S. Sivanathan, K. Shannuganathan, B. Yoganathan, S. Sabanathan, C. Kathikamanathan, K. Thillainathan, S. Tharmalingam, A. J. M. Irfan, P. Umopalan, H. M. Hasnagar, S. Chandrakanthan, B. Rajkumar.



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

4th Batch : (Academic Year 1977/1978) Science (Physical & Biological Sciences)



- Seated (L - R) :** M. M. Samsudeen, K. Tharmapalan, S. Mohan, M. I. M. Ashroof, V. Sriskandarajah, A. Sriharan, A. Juvanewary, K. Gowri, A. M. J. Y. Joseph, Prof. J. B. Selliah (Head Maths), Prof. K. Kinaratnam (Head Physics), Prof. S. Vithiananthan (Vice Chancellor), Prof. V. Tharmarainam (Dean Science), Prof. S. Mageswaren (Head Chemistry), Prof. K. Deivendrarajah (Head Botany), Prof. V. K. Ganesalingam (Head Zoology), K. Rathamany, L. Rajaluxmy, S. Chandrakumary, K. Logandran, M. T. Ziyah Mohamed, S. V. Karunendrarajah, A. R. A. Thavayek, S. Krishnakumar
- Standing 1st Row (L - R) :** P. Amalathasan, K. Kumaravel, S. M. D. Selvarajee, M. Mahaluxmy, S. Puvanewary, V. Thiraviam, A. L. Nazeerabevi, J. Mohanajeyaluxmi, S. Kirubadevi, V. Kalaranjana, T. Sathiaruby, S. Santhemy, R. Vanajah, K. Kamalampigai, S. Vatsala, S. Ranjani, D. Puvanewary, S. Kousala, K. Rohinidevi, A. S. Rajaratnam, P. Mohan, S. Suthakaran
- Standing 2nd Row (L - R) :** P. Kanesan, J. B. Patrick, P. Varatharajah, M. I. M. Sadique, R. Dombosce, S. E. J. Yogarajah, N. Ragunathan, I. Arulanantham, K. Balachandra, A. R. Iqbal, K. Muhunthan, P. Kamalasingam, K. Selvaratnam, P. Ratnakumar, V. Thangarajah, K. Seyanthan, K. Umasuthan, A. Nanthakumar, P. G. Gnanaseelan, V. Raveendran, S. Mahesan, V. P. Sabesumar, S. Rajkumar, G. Wignarajah, M. T. M. Jalaldeen, S. Ragavan, N. Kumaravel
- Standing 3rd Row (L - R) :** A. M. D. Saverimuttu, N. Kalaparan, S. Jayachandran, A. G. A. Gnanasundaram, K. Thavayogamathan, R. Indiran, V. Ananthakumar, M. Sankarakumaran, V. A. Arulrajah, S. H. Abdul Azeez, N. Ganesalingam, S. Chandrakumar, C. J. F. Figarado, S. Krishnakumar, P. Suthakaran, B. J. Edward, S. Ramasubramaniam, P. M. Sevundararajah, S. Kokalakumaran, T. Suriyakumar, V. Balasinhram
- Absentees:** T. Arumathurai, A. J. Edward, M. M. Faiz, M. N. M. Munas, A. K. Parakramasingham



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

5th Batch: (Academic Year 1978/1979) Biological Science



Seated (L - R) : N. Arulkandarajah, M. Maryn Alphones, R. Yogapirathapan, C. Vasudeva, M. S. Wajeebu, S. Vijayarathy, Prof. K. Dheivendharajah (Head Botany), Prof. V. Tharmaratnam (Dean Science), Prof. S. Vidyamanthan (Vice Chancellor), Prof. S. Mageswaran (Head Chemistry), Prof. V. K. Ganesalingam (Head Zoology), S. V. Parameswaren, S. N. Ragunathan, K. Sithamparanathan, K. Magalingasivam, R. Cheran, A. Thangrajah

Standing 1st Row (L - R) : S. Chithira, M. Jalaya, S. M. J. Selvarany, P. Sivapooranani, T. Devakumari, S. Shanthi, A. P. Arulvathany, G. Pathmarany, C. R. Kumulhini, S. Tharmanyaki, A. Sakunthaladevi, S. Sivamany, G. Kanjana, V. Ramadevi, B. Shamala, T. Kaladevi, K. Annammah

Standing 2nd Row (L - R) : P. Chandirika, S. Reynuba, Sithy Faiza, B. Shymala, V. Hemalatha, S. Kularanjani, N. Navasakthy, A. Premalatha, S. Yogeswary, K. Premakumary, B. Vaseetha, S. Uma, S. Vadivudainayagi



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

6th Batch: (Academic Year 1979/1980) Physical Science



Seated (L - R) : Kayathiriyakki N., Sivambikai K., Thavamalar T., Lingeswary R., Nirmala A., Soundararanyaki K., Shanithidevi S., Najeemunnissah J., Sarojini T., Manarani K., Ranjini I., Rajasivasakthy T. N., Prof. V. Tharmaratnam (Dean Science), Prof. S. Vithiyananthan (Vice Chancellor), Prof. K. Kunaratnam (H. Physics), Prof. S. Magesawaran (H. Chemistry), Southamini J., Sivasakthy T., Sivanaruldavi, Thangeswary S., Impakalajini P., Kamaleswary S., Sivamalar R., Siniharakanthy S.

Standing 1st Row (L - R): M. Galister, K. Nithiyananthan, N. Srikanthan, P. S. K. Shanmugarajah, S. Shanmuganathi Sarma, K. Suntharamoorthy, M. M. M. Thaiyar, K. S. Rajeswaran, T. Gunasegaram, M. Paheerathan, M. Sivanathan, Harry J., M. S. Kaleem, S. Ramakumar, T. Balasammuganathan, S. Sothilingam, S. Ganesharajah, T. Theiveegarajan, M. Manoharan, F. R. Jayakumar, G. H. Yogendran, V. Nithiyananthan, M. Raveendran

Standing 2nd Row (L - R) : S. Anthony, T. Vijayakumar, S. Srikantha, S. Senthilnathan, S. M. Meeralebe, N. Balakrishnan, P. Kokilathas, K. Parhapan, S. Pribakaran, P. Arulappan, V. Rajendra, C. Elankovan, T. Vijayasundram, M. Jayathi, K. Premnanda, P. Ratnarajah, W. Rajanathan, S. K. Raveendran, R. Ratnaseelan, O. Devakanthan, R. Jevarajah, T. Ravinaman, N. Raveenthiran, Abdullaheem

Standing 3rd Row (L - R): A. Gnanapragasam, M. Arulrajan, T. Gopalashannugam, S. Kiritharan, M. Selvaratnam, A. S. Antonyrajah, J. C. Priyaan, K. Sivakumar, K. Murugavel, K. Yogyakumar, N. Elavarasan, Chutty A. Naguleswaram, N. Aritharamoorthy, T. Mahesawaran, S. Srisathakumarajah, V. Sivarajah, T. Sivakumar, R. Anton Edirwirasinghe, K. Jejeswaran, B. Pavanenthiran, C. Lenin Franco, T. Suresh, S. Sriharan

Absentees: S. Senthikumar, Miss. M. A. Abthul Thahir, P. Thavendran, N. Vijayaragavan, K. Asokumar, S. Sivakumar, S. Kailayanathan, N. Vinotharajah, Miss. Ambiga V., S. Mahaganapathy, K. Srirangan, K. Wickneswaran, K. Komahan, V. Nambiyah, R. Ratnasingham, S. Sandramouleesan

Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

7th Batch : (Academic Year 1980/1981) Physical Science



Seated (L - R) : Piranavasothy S., Kamalanathan K., Komakan W., Thevakumar K., Nazeer B. M., Ellalan M., Shivayagarajah S., Yoganathan M., Rajendra J. C. N., Prof. K. Kumaratnam (Head Physics), Prof. S. Mageswaram (Head Chemistry), Prof. K. Dheivendrarajah (Head Botany), Prof. V. K. Ganesalingam (Head Zoology), Elankumaran C., Ismail U. M., Yoosuph A. L. M., Arunthavanathan S., Kanaganayagam S., Senthilkumar S., Shivakumar S., Vigneswaramoorthy S.

Standing 1st Row (L - R) : Sulhakar S., Nanthakumar S., Thenmoly R., Vasanthakumary M., Puvanajothy S., Santhiny T., Logarane N., Inihumathy R., Mathulany P., Parvathy T., Pynkily S., Theresadevy S., Mathivathany N., Selvadurai D., Diana, Rajananthini V., Logeswary K., Kamaleswary K., Kulathavarane T., Santhini P., Sakthiruby T., Yogeswary K., Jeyamanoharan K., Vasanthakumar E.

Standing 2nd Row (L - R) : Balendran K., Anantharajah S., Mariyadas K., Sabesan R., Shivakumar N., Manickelam P. E. J., Chandran S. R., Jeevanandan S., Sannugeswaram R., Skantharajah S., Gunasegaram S., Ramesh N., Christopher T., Jeyachandra S., Hariharan S., Ketheeswaran N., Loganathan V., Vignarajeswaran K., Karunrajah K., Sarunrajah T., Abebur Rahman A., Mahendran S., Nanthakumar P., Balendra N.



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

7th Batch : (Academic Year 1980/1981) Biological Science





Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
8th Batch : (Academic Year 1981/1982) Science (Physical & Biological Sciences)





Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

8th Batch : (Academic Year 1981/1982) Biological Science



Seated (L - R) : J. Dushyanthi, M. Sumathy, S. Jeyanthi, S. Subanthini, S. Suthahari, N. Sothisorubini, Prof. V. K. Ganesalingam, Prof. V. Tharmaratnam(Dean Science), Prof. S. Mageswaran, D. A. Sivapalan, T. Sripathy, T. Krishna, R. Myhili, N. S. Maburooba, N. Ambikathevy

Standing 1st Row (L - R) : T. Rajjana, S. Thigalmalar, S. Subanthini, R. Ranjini, S. Satharegima, A. Vijayaditemy, R. Rahini, A. Kalawathy, P. Punithavathy, R. Ragine, T. Damayanthi, P. Ragini, C. Kalanithy, A. Punitharane, R. Mangaleswary, P. Amuthambihai

Standing 2nd Row (L - R) : N. Myhili, Ms.. S. Sornavadeivel, T. Murugapoopathy, S. Sriharan, K. Vijayakumar, K. Atchuthanathan, S. Mahendrarajah, N. Nandakumar, T. Balachandran, S. Sivanayagan, S. Logeswaran, N. Shanthini, Miss. A. j. Chelliah

Standing 3rd Row (L - R) : S. Balakumar, N. Vethanayagan, P. Guruparan, K. V. Sathiaselam, M. Mylvaganam, T. J. Lewis, S. Anandavijayan, J. Michael, K. V. Mathivanan, N. Nandagopan

Absentees : S. Stephen, T. Tharmanathan, S. Sriharan, P. Mohanarani, I. L. Salahudeen



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

9th Batch : (Academic Year 1982/1983) Physical Science

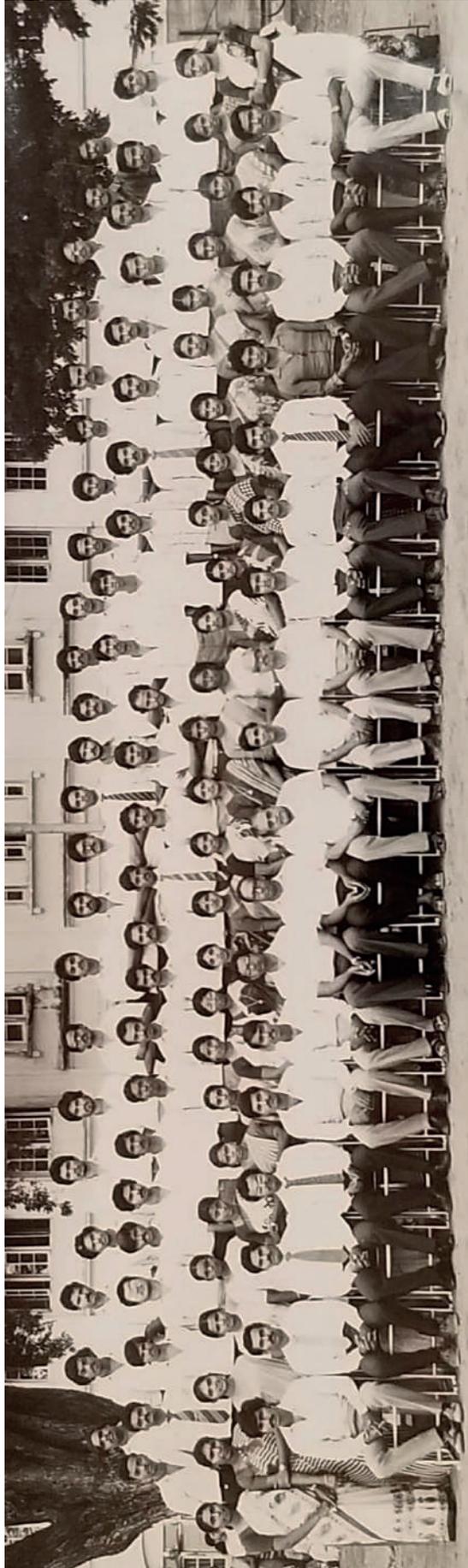


Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

9th Batch : (Academic Year 1982/1983) Bioscience



**Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka**
10th Batch : (Academic Year 1983/1984) Physical Science





Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

11th Batch - (Academic Year 1984/1985) Physical Science





Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
11th Batch - (Academic Year 1984/1985) Biological Science





Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

12th Batch - (Academic Year 1985/1986) Physical Science



Seated (L – R) : A. G. Suguna A. G. Ranjana, S. Sri Mohan, M. Aravindan, R. Varatharajan, A. Manoharan, T. Jeyashangar, K. Mohanadas, A. Sivanushanthan, G. Manoraj, R. Ravichandran, Dr. S. Kausalya, Mr. P. Makinam, Dr. S. Mohanadas, Prof. S. Mageswaran, Prof. A. Thuraiarajah (Vice Chancellor), Prof. V. K. Ganesalingam, Prof. K. Theivendrarajah, Dr. N. Sivapalan, Dr. K. Sriharan, Dr. A. M. T. Savarimuttu, S. Paranthaman, M. Murugathas, S. Sakthiyapalan, A. Nankneswaran, K. Ganesan, K. Chithra, S. Sindadevi

Standing 1st Row (L – R) : K. Kiruba, A. Annaduxmy, P. Thavamalar, K. Sulochanadevi, K. Sugendraranee, V. Vijayakumari, G. Siyamala, S. Alli, K. Janaki, M. Sivarani, S. Chithra, S. Mallika, T. Gnalogathayapariambal, N. Rajani, S. Vijayapoorani, S. Baruni, R. Suguna, A. Ulaganayagi, V. Neelva, K. Sivagnapooasani, C. Rohini, T. Mangala, S. Vasanthi, M. Nageswary, A. Subashini, C. Kalyani, G. Thayananthi, S. Shanthi, S. Sivamathy, R. Kamalini, R. Suganthini, S. Kausalya

Standing 2nd Row (L – R) : S. Kokila, P. Sumeethakala, V. Chithra, S. Shanthini, S. Guhanantha, C. Balanathan, N. Nagakumaran, S. Selvarajah, K. Shammugathasan, A. Nithiananthan, J. A. D. Jegatheesan, A. Joseph, T. Nanthakumar, V. Yogathasan, S. Raveendranathan, M. Manisekaran, M. Gopalakrishnan, K. Rajasegar, S. Thayaseelan, K. Ramani Iyar, G. A. Bertram, S. Uruhrakumar, K. Balachandran, N. Seevaratham, S. Thevarajah, V. Rajeswara, S. Vijayakone, V. Sarathambal, K. Nanthakumary, A. Malini, A. Raveeswary

Standing 3rd Row (L – R) : T. Ganeshwari, S. Sivakananathan, V. Vijayakumar, S. Prabaharan, N. Sabanayagam, J. Santhirapiragasam, T. Arulrajah, A. Wijendran, S. Sivananthan, R. Ravinohan, K. Velauthanathan, K. Nagendram, S. Varatharajah, K. Kirupalamoorthy, P. Kiritharan S. Thayaparan, S. Elango, A. Plectides Kingston, L. Uthayarajan, V. Raveendra, K. Kularajan, J. Diantel, T. Ravichander, R. Gnanakumar, T. Yuvendrakumar, T. Jeyakumaran, S. Arunan



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

13th Batch: (Academic Year 1986/1987) Science (Physical and Biological Sciences)



Front row(L - R) : K. Romeshun, Y. Muralitharan, V. Thevarajah, J. Threes Morin Rajani, K. Sivanangai, P. Thangarani, K. Geetha, K. Sivanithi, S. Shanthy, K. Mythili, S. Rathika, S. V. Swarnalatha, M. Yasantha, T. Mathivadhany, R. Lalithambikai, R. Uma, K. Manorani, F. J. Jesuthasan, N. Sriskantha, C. C. Dhanañjeyan

Seated Row (L - R): P. Thavanees, C. Dharminy, M. Thirunathan, S. Arjuna, T. Vijayakumar, S. Mangaleswaran, R. Dhayalini, P. Sherlin Subathra, S. Swarnalatha, N. Prema Calixta, T. Srigowry, S. Arudchelvan, Prof. K. Kandasamy, Prof. S. Mageswaran, Prof. K. Ganesalingam, Prof. A. Thurairajah (Vice Chancellor), Prof. N. Balakrishnan, Prof. K. Theivendirarajah, Dr. S. Mahinan, G. Kulasingam, S. Jeyanthi, G. Kalainagal, N. Jamunarathy K. Premadevi, S. Mathiyalakan, P. K. K. Panchalingam, J. Ajith Pillainayagam

Standing 1st Row(L - R) : T. Theivasakthy, T. Chithra, R. Geetha, P. Indra, K. Gausalia, R. Gowry Devi, S. Kalatchechevi, K. Loganayaki, G. Tharshika, K. Nanthini, N. Anuraadhai, S. Nanthini, N. Thayalini, C. Anura, S. Arulnithy, T. Thanushini, S. Sivashanthini, M. Rajani, A. Nesarani, K. Kalavani, S. Gowreswary, K. Malini, V. Shanthini, K. Thirumagal, S. Renjithathevi, R. Nihyagowry, K. Namagal, R. Ranjani, T. Kalaranee, R. Yasantha, T. Sivananthini, T. Nageswary

Standing 2nd Row(L - R) : T. A. Jude Inbaraj, N. Mahendran, A. Thiyakesan, S. Baskaran, K. Suganthan, O. Vijayathasan, A. Thirumarani, S. Parameswaran, N. Sriharan, M. Raviendran, K. Vaheesar, K. Pathmanathan, V. Muganathan, V. Parameswaran, N. Pushparani, J. Vasuki, K. Jeyagowry, K. Pankayatchelvi, B. Premala, K. Sumathy, S. Chandrika, J. Dhamayanthi, M. Kalawathy, S. Subangy, T. Sriranjani, K. Thiruvaram, S. Nithiyvananthan, M. Gnanadas, S. Sivarajah, S. Kanaganayagam, S. Suganthan

Standing 3rd Row(L - R) : R. Skanitharajah, R. Kugathasan, P. Jeyakumar, M. Puvendran, K. Jeyanthan, A. Gnaneswaran, T. Gnanakaran, E. Paul Narendran, N. Uthayakumar, G. Sivalingam, A. Kodeswaran, T. Jeyakandeevan, S. Raviendran, S. Yasanathakumar, S. V. Srirangan, S. Sivapala, K. Gnanasekaran, R. Mohanathas, K. Yogarajah, T. Sivayogalingam, S. Amarajothy, S. Muratimanoharan, S. Sripalan, P. Kuganathan, V. K. Murgatiah, V. Kengatharan, K. Nakkeeren, V. Kumareshan, M. Jeyamesh, K. Srishankar, S. Rajkumar, M. Paramalingam, S. Navalan, S. Jeyakumar, S. Rajasooriyar

Absentees: N. Chithiran, S. Sivakumar, R. J. Thavendra, T. Thavarajah, Uthayakumar
Not with us till the end: N. Bhavani, P. Kanthan, R. Kirubakaran



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
15th Batch : (Academic Year 1988/1989) Science (Physical and Biological Sciences)





Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

16th Batch - (Academic Year 1989/1990) Physical and Biological Science



Front (L-R) : K. Aruna, S. Sivajini, K. Vijayakumari, S. Pratheepa, T. Dushyanthi, R. Biruntha, S. Gowri, G. Aneckel Nalini, A. Chryshanthi, V. Jeyavathana, K. Subathra, B. Jeyanthini, A. Thabotharani, S. Kamalini, R. Vimaladevi, G. L. I. Thayani, A. V. Sujathini, N. Kala, S. Janaki, S. Kayavili, P. Uma, N. Nalayini, S. Jegatheeswary, E. Anne Felicia, K. Chandradevi, R. Rathiga, S. Sivajini.

Seated (L-R): B. Santhirika, L. Remuka, O. Chandrakala, Mrs. A. Bamathy, A. Sivakumar, S. Karuna, R. Sangheran, S. P. Sivananthan, S. Jeyakanthan, G. Radhakaran, Dr. G. Somasuntharam, Prof. Mrs. R. Maheswaran, Dr. S. Srisakunarakajah, Prof. S. Maheswaran (Dean), Prof. A. Thuraiarajah (Vice Chancellor), Prof. V. K. Ganesalingam, Dr. N. Sivapalan, M. Baskaran, K. Ramanaish, P. Sayanthakumar, V. S. B. Thuseetharan, S. Thayalan, C. Parimaladevi, B. Ketheeswary, M. Shanthimathy, K. Punithamathy, P. Ritta Vasanthakumari, M. Malini.

Standing 1st Row (L-R): N. Manjula, Mrs. S. Suvaminathan, T. Arulmathy, T. Subakini, R. Syamala, R. Santhi, T. Usha, S. Gnanakala, S. Indra, S. Vasanthi, T. Verni, R. Rajani, U. Umasthanthi, K. Sivanayaki, T. Kalavani, R. Anuratha, K. Vasuki, S. Vathsala, L. Nithyananthi, A. Sumathi, T. Mathumai, P. Mathiyathani, R. Rajamala, S. Ilamathy, K. Kannaki, S. Syamala, A. Mayuri, K. Manoranchini, G. Preedika, N. Kanthimathy, P. Kirubananthi, S. Geethanjali, S. Premi, R. Tharaga, S. Thirusarudchelvi, R. Rathiga, P. Santhanangai, K. Inthumathi, K. Vijayakumari, S. Thamichelvi, G. Thevaki, V. Nilamathi, P. Sutha.

Standing 2nd Row (L-R): R. Srikanan, R. Logendra, V. Arasakesary, K. Suthakaran, R. Sivaganan, A. S. Thusiyanthan, P. Ravindranathan, S. Kumarathas, R. Ambikaipalan, S. Ravichandran, V. Senthana, S. Sarathchandran, K. Sutharsan, T. Pakeerathan, S. Mathivathanan, P. Kandeepan, P. Mohanakumar, R. Pirabakaran, A. Sutharsan, S. Paranthaman, P. Sivananthan, P. Ravirajan, S. Kathiramalai, M. K. Sriharan, P. Thayaparan, N. Ragunathan, T. Mathiyalagan, N. Sathyanathan, B. Babu, M. Jude Thathore.

Standing 3rd Row (L-R): N. Thirulinganathan, T. Linus Fernando, M. Kengeswaran, S. Nimalan, K. Koneswaran, T. Ketheeswaran, S. Sriganesh, T. Simmendan, R. Uthayaraj, R. Sivakumar, S. Reginold Jeyakumar, K. Ravindra, R. Pushparatnam, S. Thavaraj, T. Sureshkumar, S. Namthakumar, S. Guruparan, V. Sivasakthivel, K. Jeyakumar, K. Srikanan, S. Ganesshwaran, K. Suseendrakumar, P. Sriharan, J. Vilhiyatharan, R. Rasalingam, S. Uruthramoorathy, D. Loganathan, R. Pirabakaran, S. Ravi, K. Parameswaran, T. Sivarasa, S. Noble Surendran.

Absent: R. Jeyasingarajan, S. Kirubakaran, T. Thayalakumar, M. Mathanakumar, N. Bamathy, S. Thashajini, K. Mithindaladevi, M. Komala, A. Subananthi, S. Chandrakala, N. Atputharani, S. Patricia Amalarani



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

19th Batch : (Academic Year 1992/1993) Science (Physical and Biological Sciences)



Seated (L-R): Dr. Mrs. P. Krishnarajah(Head Zoology), Dr. S. Mahesan(Head Computer Sc.), Dr. N. Sivapalan(Head Chemistry), Prof. P. Balasundrampillai(Vice Chancellor), Mr. P. Makinan(Head Maths & Stats), Dr. L. Jeganathan (Student Councillor), Mr. S. N. Jearaj, Mr. E. Vivehananthan.

Standing 1st Row (L-R): S. Komala, S. Kalaimahal, P. Subajini, M. Manomalini, V. Rubavathy, J. Kavitha, N. Vanitha, S. Jamuna, J. Jeyavani, S. Sivagowri, M. Dhushyanthi, S. Anusha, V. Pavalarani, S. Arulmoly, S. Kanjana, R. Gnanagory, T. Jasotha, S. Kohila, A. Suganthi, T. Sarvendra, K. Thirudchelvi

Standing 2nd Row (L-R): T. Puvanalagini, P. Monika, S. Shankary, S. Pirabakar, S. Jeyanthan, S. Konesan, J. Piratheepan, J. Pirathepan, S. Gnanarathan, K. srikummar, S. Thanabalasingam, M. Baskaran, K. Giritharan, S. Subalingam, T.Baleswaran, M. Satheeskumar, A. Mathivathani, V. Poorani, M. Varaimahal

Standing 3rd Row (L-R): P. Santhar, K. Kumaran, K. Ganeshamoorthy, M. Gobirishna, T. Ramajeyam, A. Rajaaravinthan, B. Ketheesan, E. Y. A. Charles, R. L. Gunaratnam, K. Athilhan, T. Sivakumaran, E. Mathiyalagan, T. Naresh, V. Parameshwaran, N. Suresh, K. Kokulan, G. G. Santhirasiri



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

21st Batch : (Academic Year 1994/1995) Science (Physical and Biological Sciences)



Seated (L-R) :

P. Renuka, T. Shanthi, T. Genga, K. Kayalini, B. Subashini, R. Rajini, Mrs. Ravimaman, Dr. Mrs. Krishnarajah, Prof. V.K. Ganesalingam (Dean Faculty of Science), R. Shrimathan, Prof. P. Balasundarampillai (Vice Chancellor), S. Sivajan, Prof. R. Kumaravadivel, Dr. S. Mahesan, T. Mathivathani, B. Suhila, B. Nithiya, S. Subashini, S. Yasotha.

Standing (L-R) 1st row:

R. Joe Inparaj, T. Selvamurali, S. Saravanabavan, M. Primrose, S. Ramanika, T. Yamuna, P. Mangayathkarasi, S. Vasuki, R. Jeyarani, R. Nathini, S. Rubanantly, B. Thushyanthi, T. Kalyani, S. Vathani, K. Suki, P. Tharani, V. Sivendriini, S. Rajani, T. Jeganthi, S. Premeela, T. Kunalini, S. Sivashakthy, P. Renuka, P. Nalayini, M. Neidhra, T. Abirami, V. Ramani, T. Thasheela, K. Mayuran, S. Saravanapavan, T. Senthilnathan.

Standing (L-R) 2nd row:

K. Ambihaipagan, P. Senthilnathan, D. Muralidaran, T. Keshavan, A. Sothinathan, J. G. Thushyantha, P. Iyngaran, G. Vijayakumar, P. Thayanandan, K. Mohanarajan, G. Ramanitharan, K. Vignaruban, S. Selvakadunko, I. Koneswaran, K. Nagendran, J. Kirubalan, S. Nimalan, V. Rajalingam, B. Vasanthan, S. Kandeparajah, S. K. Antanyogarajah, A. Balamohan, S. Kajarajan, N. Koneswaran, K. Gajamugan, N. Krishnakumar, M. Suresh, T. Amirthalingam.

Standing (L-R) 3rd row:

B. Raveendran, E. Surenthiranathan, S. Jeyarajan, K. Kamnan, N. Pathmaharan, S. Surenthiran, K. Brady, K. Bhavananthakumar, K. Ananthalerishnan, T. Selvarajah, S. Thayyapan, S. Umakaran, S. Suganthan, S. Kugathas, S. K. Nadamasabesan, M. Sabesan, S. Sivasri, G. Saravaneswaran, K. Suganthan, R. Kuhnathan, T. Senthilkumaran, B. Balanirajan, R. Kalatchelvan, S. Thayyaruban.



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

24th Batch : (Academic Year 1997/1998) Science (Physical and Biological Sciences)



Seated (L-R) : S. Kalaivani, L. Mehala, S. Karikalan, V. Selvabavan, Y. Mathan, P. Gowri, Mrs. J. Nandakumar, Mrs. N. Ravimannan, S. Ponthivakaran, Prof. P. Balasundarampillai, Prof. R. Kumaravadivel, Dr. S. Mahesan, Dr. K. Parameswaran, V. Mathimaran, S. Sanjayan, B. Kumaran, B. Swarna

Standing (L-R) 1st row: S. Kavitha, V. Kavitha, N. Srikanthini, T. Vijayalatha, V. Imawathy, R. Subhagini, B. Vasanthika, K. Renulka, R. Ruba, S. Gowshya, P. Ushananthini, P. Rajani, T. Tharshini, K. Sivananthini, A. Kalagini, S. Pakthagowri, T. Valarmathy, S. Sutharshini, J. Silani, K. Krishnapiraba, A. Jane Jemina, T. Jamini, R. Thulaja, S. Sivananthini, T. Birantha, S. Vijitha, T. Thirucheby, S. Thillegawathy, S. Sakunthalathevy, T. Sarvini

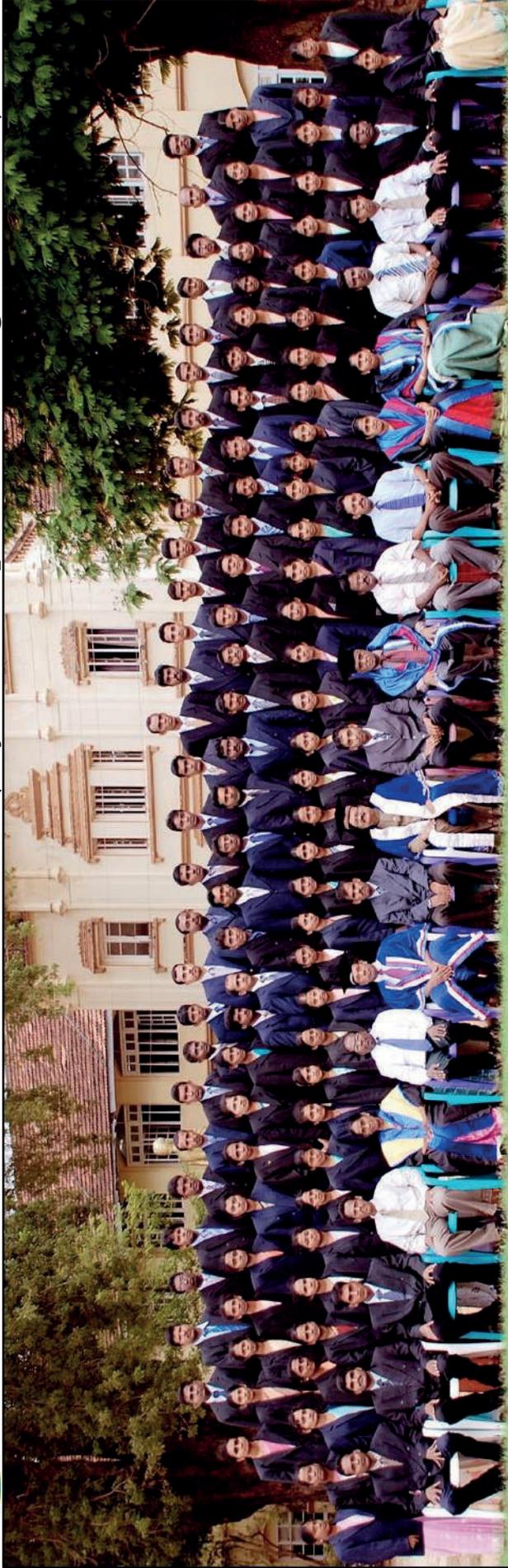
Standing (L-R) 2nd row: S. Malathy, T. Thirucheby, R. Kumuda, N. Thamilselvan, V. Thileeban, M. Prashanthan, M. Jeyanthirabala, R. Raganan, P. Kamalakaran, R. Eswaran, N. Sivachelvan, G. Gajan, K. Pirabakaramoorthy, M. Kigan, R. Kesavan, N. Jeyakanthan, N. Athavan, P. Justin Jude, S. Sathaharan, T. Mohanarajah, S. Thirukumarar, V. Wilson, P. Antony Gnanasekaran, A. Thabesan, R. Kugathas, N. Sivarajini, S. Meenambikai, S. Shakeela,

Standing (L-R) 3rd row: S. Nisanthan, T. Kesavan, M. Sriharan, S. Hariharan, S. Gajan, G. Shasikumar, M. Thavendran, T. Moganarangan, K. Mathievanan, T. Sivakumar, A. Arulalan, P. Nishanthan, A. Jeyatheeban, P. Janarthanan, P. Biratheeban, R. Narendra, S. Sambasivam, Y. Mayoaran, S. Sivaraj, V. Premkumar, V. Umapathey, G. Anton Charles, S. Chandranathan



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

30th Batch : (Academic Year 2003/2004) Science (Physical, Computer and Biological Sciences)



Sitting - (L-R)
 T. Sasirankan, R. Shavewara, M. Amirthaharan, Dr. R. Sirtharam (Head/Chemistry), Mrs. S. Anulantham (Head/Education), Dr. S. Mahesan (Head/Computer Science), Prof. R. Kumaravadeivel (Dean/Science), N. Nesaroojan, Prof. N. Shanmugalingam (Vice Chancellor), T. Marutharajan, Prof. K. Karithrasamy (Dean/Graduate Studies), Dr. R. Vigneswaran (Head/Maths&Stat), Dr. P. Jeyadevan (Student Counsellor), Mrs. N. Ravimamant (Head/Botany), Dr. Mrs. S. Kuganathan (Head/Zoology), Dr. E. Y. A. Charles (Senior Lect), Mr. S. Suthakar (Lect), R. Shanmugajothi, V. Nishanthini.

Standing - 1st Row
 T. Gnanamala, N. Thamayanthy, S. Ranjitha, S. Jalini, F. Kanisramary, S. Vinotha, K. Kumarathy, V. Heanugha, E. Karthiga, V. Wharagi, N. Jasiga, S. Thanugsha, M. Meurin, Coonghe, T. Tharsika, N. Kalyani, J. Diana, M. Abramy, I. Sarmila, S. Prema, K. Diljana, K. Pamini, P. Aarani, A. Henamalini, G. Sallajah, S. Thayyanthy, R. Piraba, S. Kugapathy, M. Anirtha, P. Thabothini, K. Theepana, P. Kamila, L. Yasothini, K. Thulasi, K. Mathumitha.

Standing - 2nd Row
 S. Tharmila, T. Reeka, S. Elavanya, V. Rathika, A. Madoma, K. Gayathri, S. Theepaath, S. Jenothini, M. Vijitha, S. Ambigapathy, R. Kugaraj, K. Santhanakrishnan, A. Sathees, G. Pratheep, T. Angaran, J. Nilashan, T. Ahilendran, R. Kanendran, G. Benorajothayan, T. Augustin Figurado, S. Thilipan, S. Nishanthan, S. Sathees, S. Shrikulan, M. Kohilan, L. Yalini, A. Jane Jessica, S. Uma, B. Abrami, P. Janani, P. Vijetha.

Standing - 3rd Row
 L. Senthran, S. Sasigaran, T. Kokul, M. Pragash, S. Balamurali, K. Ashok Raj Babu, S. Rajeev, T. Thevatharshan, A. Rasekaran, S. Prasanthan, V. Jathushan, A. Ramesh, B. Muralieetharan, A. Thieeban S. Jathavan, T. Rajeeban, K. Jeyakanthan, R. Sakuntharaj, S. Balajeewan, S. Sivasuthan, A. Anapayan, R. Kavikumar, Y. Suthahar, X. S. Patheeswaran, K. Kajendran, S. Mahimraj, P. Balamanoharan.

Absent: S. Sivanathan



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

31st Batch : (Academic Year 2004/2005) Science (Physical, Computer and Biological Sciences)





Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

32nd & 33rd Batch: (Academic Year 2005/2006 & 2006/2007) Science (Physical, Computer and Biological Sciences)



Seated (L – R): T. Suresh, S. Sivathasan, K. Jothipragash, K. Akilan (Secretary SSU), S. Iynkaran (President SSU), S. Thevatharsika, Dr. J. P. Jayathevan, Dr. Mrs. M Senthinathanan, Dr. E. Y. A. Charles (Head Computer Sc.), Dr. S. Srisakunaratjah (Head Maths & Stats), Prof. N. Shanmugalingan (Vice Chancellor), Prof. K. Kandasamy (Head Physics), Prof. R. Kumaravadivel (Dean Science), Mr. K. Thabotharan, Miss. B. Ganesharajah, T. Thanenthini (Batch Rep.), S. Thilleepan (Batch Rep.), S. Ariharan (President USU), T. Mayoaran, S. Srirajeewan, K. Prashanthan

Standing 1st Row (L – R): P. Crishami Miranda, P. Kohila, S. Mayoorthy, S. Mary, T. Sureka, S. Shiyama, S. Suganya, V. Kayalvili, K. Tharshini, K. Yashintha, Mary Kanjana, S. Sivathiga, V. Sivarajini, S. Niruja, K. Premalatha, S. Hamsitha, Kurumathy, S. Jeyasakthy, K. Nilani, Janitha, K. Sharmini, S. Nilani, V. Vasuki, K. Veronika, R. Vasanthakala, P. Siyamala, R. Printha, K. Subashini, S. Thulasitha, T. Sinthiya, P. Sureka, S. Suganya, S. Sinthuja, K. Robika, V. Jelani, G. Subajini

Standing 2nd Row (L – R): A. Isaac Vijayakanthan, S. Kalaichevan, A. Pavithiran, S. Sainthan, P. Thivakaran, S. R. Vivekshan, S. Mathanarajah, P. Anaraj, S. Babian Roy, R. Nareesh, R. Kamalathasan, T. Kumanan, M. Theivendra, S. Arathy, G. Sobika, R. Rajenthini, V. Thuvaraka, S. Kothai, S. Mahuramtheni, S. Gobika, T. Tharmatha, A. Marysibani Croos, T. Shyamala, T. Tharchayani, S. Satheswaran, T. Mathusuthanan, K. Niharshan, V. Kailashanth, K. Prashanthan, R. Kalhees, S. Paraparan, J. Jauthubalatharan, K. Kugathasan, B. Sathesstumar, S. Anojan, R. Sejohn, R. Kumananayakam, R. Thusyanthan

Standing 3rd Row (L – R): T. Kajeethan, S. Mayuran, S. Jedin, B. Nesariban, S. Mayarathan, S. Ranjith, S. Arulsevan, C. A. Fernando, P. Mayuran, S. Perinpathas, J. Piratheepan, S. Sataruthasan, B. Piratheepan, K. Komakan, S. Gairegan, K. Sivakaran, V. Nitharsan, V. Kavevethan, G. Senthilnathan, R. Rajeevan, S. Thamilsaasan, V. Vajeeth, B. Nirooparaj, A. Aravinthan, C. Thivyan, B. Pirasanna, K. Kalaichevan, R. Saselan, A. Chandilyan, T. Janarath, V. Thevarasa, A. Rajeevan, S. Purusoththaman, T. Senthuran, K. Senthoran, S. Pirathaban, T. Kirupathiran, K. Krishnanathan



Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

35th Batch : (Academic Year 2008/2009) Science (Physical, Computer & Biological Sciences)



Seated (L – R): J. Jejepratheepa, P. Paramthamant(2nd Year Batch Rep.), S. Solomon (3rd Year Batch Rep.), Mr. K. Thaboharan, Dr. Mrs. R. Gnaeswaran(Head Zoology), Dr. Mrs. M. Senithilanthanan, Prof. S. Srisathumarajah(Head Maths & Stats), Prof. P. Ravirajan(Head Physics), Prof. K. Kandasamy(Dean Science), A. Pirasanna (President SSU), Prof. Miss. V. Arasaratnam (Vice Chancellor), T. Kulatheepan (Secretary SSU), Dr. J. Prince Jeyathevan(Head Chemistry), Dr. Mrs. N. Niranjan(Head Botany), Prof. Mrs. S. Kuganathan(Head Fisherts) Dr. Mrs. A. Sivaroopan, V. Paheerathan (Treasurer SSU), S. Remuraj(Treasurer-SSU), S. Kabiriyal(1st Year Batch Rep.), Y. Paheerathy

Standing 1st Row (L – R): K. Jeyapirathaa, Y. Ajeitha, S. Vaishnavi, K. Sathya, R. Lathika, A. Gobika, P. Branavagini, R. Kamisda, J. Jenitha, S. Sarvananthu, K. Logini, K. Krishanthu, T. Pathmalatha, V. Thadehajini, R. Pavithra, S. Shakila, M. Sinthuya, S. Mathuja, T. Nishalini, U. Mekala, K. Abilashini, B. Mithira, S. Tharsana, S. Sivasorubi, J. Mariyadekay, V. Priya, K. Piratheepa, T. Poojithreyi, R. Vatsala, P. Jeevitha, K. Navaneethabarathy, S. Subarajini

Standing 2nd Row (L – R): T. Thayananthi, M. Narmatha, J. Niroja, K. Ragila, G. Thavaseelan, R. Nirujan, M. Kirushanthan, K. Ragavan, M. Mohanaraj, A. Arumneru, S. Thuvarakan, V. Nishanth, M. Mahilan, S. Vithiyathasan, P. Josinthan, S. Vakeesan, S. Ehanathan, S. Selvaruban, T. Shanjeevan, T. Inkaran, B. Kajanar, T. Luxan, M. Kalaiyalagan, R. Jarachanthan, S. Jebarshan, P. Mathuragan, P. Artika, S. Nithiya, S. Jananie

Standing 3rd Row (L – R): S. Suthan, K. Ragulan, S. Balaranjan, K. M. D. Senathera Digamadulla, M. Thinesh, Y. Kesavan, R. Ragavamenan, F. Joseph Mayooran, K. Sriharan, V. Ramesh, S. Keethahan, T. Thinesh, K. Janarthan, S. Mayoorathan, V. Muhunthan, U. Krishanthan.



Faculty of Science, of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
42nd Batch : (Academic Year 2015/2017) Science (Physical, Computer and Biological Sciences)



- Seated (L - R) :** T. Manojan, S. Sulejman, D. M. R. Lalnadi, A. P. P. Prabahar Sankelipa, W. M. K. Priyanath, Janith Prabodha, R. G. J. S. Jayanath, D. M. M. A. Dissanayake, D. M. S. K. Dissanayake, K. Abirani (1st Year Batch Representative), L. Anushani (President USU, 2nd year Batch Rep.), M. A. A. Rathnan (Batch Rep.), Mr. S. Sathakhar, Dr. T. Pathmalath (Head Physics), Dr. P. lyngarajan (Head Chemistry), Dr. A. Ramanian (Head Computer Science), Prof. P. Ravirajan (Dean), Prof. S. Satharajah (Head Fisheries), Dr. S. Arivalagan (Head Maths & Statistics), Dr. T. Esvaranathan (Head Zoology), Mrs. S. Sathiyarathnan, K. Kejan (President SSU), R. Srinathan (Secretary SSU), M. Sopraj (Treasurer SSU), S. S. Athavan, J. P. G. M. Ilangaratna, S. Manojan, P. Roshanathan, R. M. C. N. D. Dissanayake, M. H. Iqas Mohamed, B. W. G. L. P. Premaratna, N. T. C. Hemachandra.
- Standing 1st Row (L - R) :** B. N. Abegunaratna, C. M. S. M. Chandrasekara (3rd year Girls' Sports Rep.), B. H. M. H. Lakshani, S. Malhotra, M. Mayurika, T. P. G. Y. Thennakoon, A. Kobiy, A. D. Shirojini, P. A. D. S. Prashansani, D. M. N. N. Weeraratna, S. C. Nissala, F. N. F. Haq, J. Lumbini, M. N. F. Nafila, M. A. Afiana Rose, M. H. F. Haena, M. S. Sofra, A. R. Radeeya Bani, W. N. Fathima Munifa, M. Y. P. Haena, N. F. Nushab, A. R. Fathima Bani, M. L. N. Soudhika, R. Fathima Fathima, M. S. Usoda, W. G. Arosha P. Fernando, M. Vinithya, H. M. A. S. K. Ilangoosinghe, O. Y. J. Ranaweera, L. A. D. D. Nissala, D. D. Sivasingha, A. Venushya, R. Mitanoya, A. M. P. Rajasiri, W. S. Prathibha, W. A. M. N. Metananda, A. A. Masavathedera, P. K. W. W. M. G. T. Maddegoda.
- Standing 2nd Row (L - R) :** K. K. P. Rawanaldha, T. Melthasha, D. M. M. L. Dissanayake, W. K. H. Dhibhara Rang, S. Vithusha, R. A. N. S. Madhanjali, J. L. Kesini, S. R. A. Kevesha Rathi, T. A. Kalansooriya, R. M. Kasani, A. Ranaweera, K. M. S. A. Kurappu, H. A. S. S. K. Premasiri (1st year Girls' Sports Rep.), V. Srinidhi, S. Kalubovila, S. D. K. G. Karunaratna, T. Dilakshi, G. D. Y. H. Seneviratne, K. Y. K. W. Abeywickrama, B. Banithra, B. Thushanika, M. Kajjani, K. A. S. Dimanthika, S. Mithusa, Y. Thirushika, Y. R. I. W. Jayawardhane, S. Luzana, S. K. M. D. Karthyasam, A. Sivanya, W. K. P. A. D. M. Rodrigo, J. J. R. Windaratna, M. Joy Karunya, H. M. C. U. Seneviratna, J. P. S. H. Jayakodi, S. Githusha, J. Disegini, K. M. S. S. M. Thimbiripiyaa, S. Mathurya, K. M. S. K. Gunathilake, J. Tharang.
- Standing 3rd Row (L - R) :** R. M. B. M. Rathnayake, R. Meenadeshanthani, H. M. S. K. Herath, W. M. D. N. Kumari, L. S. U. Fernando, K. D. P. Madushika, K. Tharmika, R. Siroshelika, M. S. S. Gunasekara, D. S. S. Arachchi, W. C. Weerasundara, M. Regitha, D. M. T. S. Dissanayake, W. N. N. Fernando, J. A. M. Ranghla, K. Mihila, R. A. D. Unesha, K. C. A. S. S. Kularatna, K. A. C. S. Gunathunga, J. M. D. D. Jayamaha, D. H. K. T. Dissanayake, D. H. K. T. Hemamali, K. M. K. Konara, W. P. D. S. Rosita, B. Sahana, D. R. G. U. P. Karmanayake, A. Hamsathani, D. A. Ilangaratna, R. M. N. N. Premaratna, K. Thakshini (Batch Rep.), R. M. S. M. Rathnayake, S. R. K. H. Ganaga, G. B. S. Sivasingha, W. M. Y. Wanasinghe (2nd year Girls' Sports Rep.), R. Ramathi, A. K. R. Dimeshi, P. A. H. R. Panambara.
- Standing 4th Row (L - R) :** C. Thudsharini, U. Priyanka, R. M. Y. N. Ramanayaka, S. Dinusha, R. Gayathri, M. Hiranya, A. H. R. Priyadarshani, S. Niluja, K. Kesavi, S. M. Y. K. Senanayake, J. Nirashanti, K. M. Wickramasinghe, V. Kajitha, U. Hamshiyani, E. M. S. H. Ekanayake, G. Vibra, K. Mary-Ashina, S. Kamsha, K. Mojitarethy, I. Lakshika, J. Ranniah, R. Lavanya, H. M. S. A. Kumar, K. D. Aiswarya, S. Abhishta, N. Swetha, P. Thirapavitha, M. Rathilika, S. Nilgini, G. R. A. K. Gavigamuru, S. Anjal, Y. Yathika, T. Dhani, D. M. D. G. P. S. Dissanayaka, J. Thushanthi, S. Jayaraj, T. Kantoli.
- Standing 5th Row (L - R) :** R. D. S. N. Karunaratne, P. M. T. P. Senarath, U. J. A. A. Dilshan, M. Charles Alven, K. G. P. M. Chandraratna, N. Damshon, G. H. G. Ruwan Kalpage, M. L. Bandara, A. A. V. P. Athukorala, W. J. K. Lakshana, P. G. J. Samitha, T. D. P. Chamkara, W. A. S. M. Wijesingha, A. G. D. D. U. Gunawardhana, K. W. B. S. Akalanka, T. Seratharana, M. G. V. I. Thilakarathna, A. A. S. N. Alhanda, H. W. R. L. Hendawilharana, N. S. L. Theera, U. G. R. M. E. K. Rathnayake, S. Subendran, S. Vinodhan, M. A. Arhan, M. S. M. Hsan, M. H. Safek, Ahmed, S. Mahawar Ahmed, R. M. Rizwan, K. M. A. M. Karunaratna, T. P. G. S. Madhusheela, T. M. G. C. B. Tennakoon, N. M. Shareek, K. Sepalalshanthan, R. K. R. Amarasinghe, S. Sarath Mivuru, R. G. R. D. Ramademy.
- Standing 6th Row (L - R) :** T. M. D. L. Thennakoon, C. Piramavin, K. V. Thamsan, W. S. Wijesinghe, M. N. Rugeeth, K. Amathakasan, M. Mathushan, J. Jelsan, S. C. S. Senarathna, L. S. Galappaththi, H. L. R. L. Liyanage, S. M. Waseem, W. M. N. Wijesingha, M. D. Kanishka, P. A. N. Fernando, N. Mahanidram, R. G. Prasad, K. R. L. C. Bandara, S. Jemshanthi, S. L. R. Akeel, K. M. C. P. N. Bandara, H. M. A. P. K. Bandara, L. Y. Yacopula, E. M. T. Ekanayake, W. M. R. A. Wijayasundara, P. H. I. L. Ananda, M. A. M. J. Fernando, R. M. A. D. Ranasinghe, R. Livek, S. A. S. Chanika, W. P. P. M. Wasalthilaka, H. M. S. D. Herath, M. A. Munzir.
- Standing 7th Row (L - R) :** K. H. M. Rathnayaka, W. L. D. Karumathilake, T. I. C. Thilakarathna, U. M. D. S. Ulagoda, U. P. H. Jayarathna, K. M. M. B. Kulabhanga, W. M. N. M. Abeykoon, S. M. G. Karamadegolla, R. M. T. Lakshana, E. M. K. M. B. Ekanayake, R. R. S. P. Rajakaruna, M. N. M. Najees, M. N. A. Rasni, M. M. M. Zakee, A. J. M. Rizvi, R. A. V. T. Sangeetha, M. H. Viduranga, G. Abilan, T. M. N. C. Thennakoon, D. G. H. K. S. Karunadasa, L. H. A. P. Lalmai, S. K. K. A. Sanjaya, R. M. T. S. Seneviratna, M. W. M. Ponsan, J. P. D. Kalurajapathi, A. Parantharan, R. Nirajan, R. S. L. Jayasinghe, D. M. S. Lakshika, A. Nickson, K. G. A. Akurshana.
- Standing 8th Row (L - R) :** M. K. P. Jayarathna, J. Shan Farvin, M. A. J. N. Senadhera, B. D. T. Sandaravon, U. S. D. Samaraweera, D. M. S. C. Dissanayake, K. Vinodi, M. Pravinthan, A. G. M. N. Anubegoshanna, M. H. G. S. A. Jayasooriya, T. Manosanthi, R. H. S. L. Dilshan, M. Picheshwaran, R. K. C. S. Rajakulalanga, S. Lesly Levan, W. R. I. R. Widiyasekera, J. M. H. N. Jayawardana, A. Keerthikan, K. Pragash, E. K. U. Lakshana, A. C. D. Adhikari, T. Dhyanendra, L. Keerthikan, R. Sarathkumar.



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செயற்படும்
இணைய வங்கிச் சேவை



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புத்தகம்
தேவையில்லை



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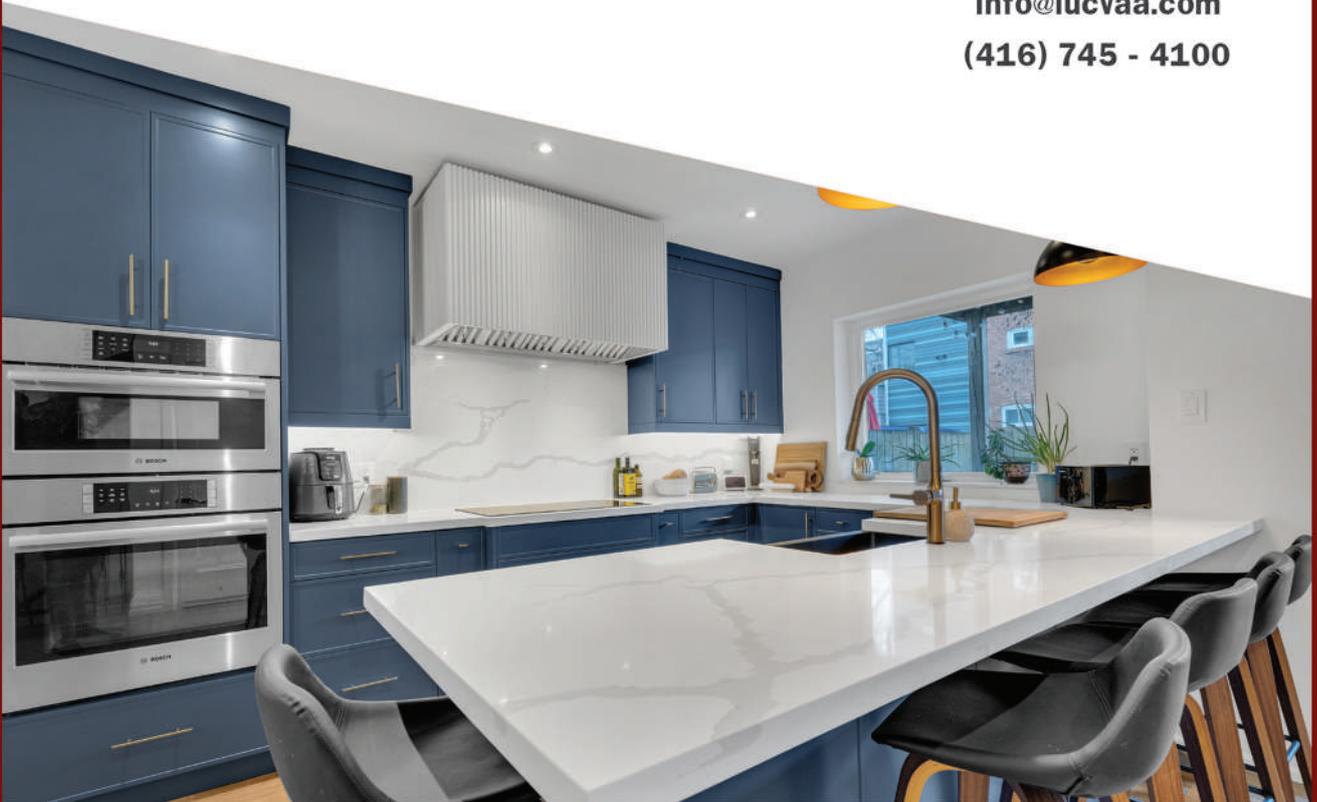


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