

NewsFoS@UoJ

Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna

December 2020



Vice-Chancellors and Competent Authority of the UoJ from FoS



Professor S. Srisatkunarajah assumed duties as the 9th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna on 28 August 2020. He is an alumnus and an academic in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna. He served as the Dean of the Faculty of Science from July 2013 to July 2016.

He obtained his BSc (Hons) in Mathematics with First class from the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka (1979-1983), PhD in Mathematics from the Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, United Kingdom (1985-1988), and Postgraduate Diploma in Education with Merit Pass from the Open University of Sri Lanka (2003-2004). During his stay as an undergraduate student, he was awarded University Soccer Colours and achieved outstanding academic distinctions with all round active participation in Sports and Students' Welfare activities.



Emeritus Professor K. Kandasamy served as the Competent Authority of the University of Jaffna from 09 May 2019 to 27 August 2020. He obtained his BSc (Hons) in Physics from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (1970-1973), PhD in Solid State Physics from the University of Keele, England, United Kingdom (1977-1980). He is one of the pioneer members of the University of Jaffna and served as the Dean of the Faculty of Science from July 2010 to July 2013.



Professor R. Vigneswaran served as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna from 01 May 2017 to 06 May 2019. He obtained his BSc (Hons) in Mathematics from the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka (1978-1982), PhD in Mathematics from the University of Sussex, England, United Kingdom (1988-1991). He is an alumnus and an academic in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna. He served as the Dean of the Faculty of Science from July 2016 to April 2017.

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Outreach

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

A university is expected to be a place of light, liberty and a learning place from where the solutions for the societal needs to come from. The University of Jaffna since its inception is committed to providing quality education to the students and thus produce socially responsible citizens who can drive this country forward. The efforts of the university community are often not showcased properly for a wider audience which allows people to question the role of our university as the centre for leading and changing the society.

The Faculty of Science is a frontier in many endeavours. The faculty always embraces the changes and initiates meaningful activities. The faculty contributes more to the development of the university by the research and development activities. The faculty also produces high-quality academics and administrators who are influential in improving the university.

The Newsletter of the Faculty of Science is an initiative which should be commended as it carries a lot of information about the activities which otherwise would not have been brought to the notice of the community. The activities which are highlighted in the newsletter are evident for the contribution of the university to science and society. I feel very proud to be a member of the faculty community which immensely contributes to the development of the nation. I congratulate the members of the Faculty of Science for their untiring efforts in 2020 in fulfilling the mission of the university and wish you all the best for a more productive year 2021.

God bless you all.



Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Jaffna.

Message from the Joint Editors

Though, the events of high importance kept us all busy but we are never too far away, not to reach our readers. We are late, but we are here. The Faculty's Newsletter "NewsFoS@UoJ" started in the year 2020 with the aim of releasing two publications per year. The Newsletter highlights all the activities of the Faculty members, Students and Faculty Achievements, Publications etc. It is the efficiency and dedication of our students and staff that so many activities of different flavours keep taking place and yet the schedules and daily activities don't get disturbed especially in this pandemic situation.

Highlighted in this issue are some of the notable ways the Faculty of Science continues to transform students into successful alumni from its impact on traditional face-to-face classroom teaching-learning to online mode from the strength of our career placement degree programmes: BSc, BSc (Computer Science), BSc Hons, BSc Hons (Computer Science), and BSc Hons (Applied Science).

We hope you will rejoice in reading this newsletter, that will have an impact on and encourage the members of the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna in their future endeavors. We like to follow this good practice and are looking forward for our alumni's opinions and suggestions to improve the future issues of NewsFoS@UoJ.

Dr. A. Ramanan & Dr. K. Gajapathy
NewsFos@UoJ-2020

Editorial Committee of the Newsletter

- * Prof. (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan - Associate Professor in Chemistry
- * Dr. A. Ramanan [Chairperson] - Senior Lecturer in Computer Science
- * Dr. K. Gajapathy - Senior Lecturer in Zoology
- * Dr. (Mrs.) G. Rajkumar - Senior Lecturer in Botany
- * Dr. (Ms.) S. Ubenthiran - Senior Lecturer in Physics
- * Mr. M. Khokulan - Senior Lecturer in Mathematics
- * Mr. N. Ragavan - Lecturer in Fisheries

Message from the Dean

This message finds you healthy and safe during this very difficult time not only in our region but also in all over the world. Although the year 2020 was registered as a very challenging year in the recent history of the world, our faculty staff quickly adjust themselves and excelled in teaching, research and dissemination activities which are recorded in this newsletter. I am delighted and excited to summarise these activities as the Dean of the Faculty. Prior to COVID-19 spread in Sri Lanka, with the dedication of the faculty staff and students, "Science Education for Bright future-2020" outreach programme was successfully conducted by the Faculty to over thirty thousand participants, especially, the school students from the Jaffna peninsula. The faculty has made swift action to change the programme delivery while offering the students to get the best possible academic experience during the pandemic situation. Glad to note that two batch of honours degree students are going to attend the forthcoming convocation due to dedicated service rendered by the staff during this extraordinarily challenging period while coping with their personal commitment.

To ensure the quality of the undergraduate programme offered by the faculty, self-evaluation reports of three-degree programmes were submitted to Quality Assurance Council of the University Grants Commission for conducting programme reviews. Further, Faculty staff were successful in securing grants for strengthening teaching and research capacity of the faculty and, established collaborative research works with reputed universities abroad. A good number of postgraduates are pursuing their research training abroad. I appreciate our collaborators especially Professor Dhayalan Velauthapillai for collaborating with us under two projects. The faculty staff co-authored several indexed publications in the year 2020.

Significant infrastructure development has also been carried out last year, notably, two new research laboratories were established under the World Bank funded AHEAD Operations. Further, teaching and research and teaching equipment were purchased. Several workshops, seminar and meeting were successfully conducted for strengthening the human capacity of staff and students. As the Dean of this Faculty, I would like to express my gratitude to all project coordinators and faculty sub-committees for their excellent progress towards developing the Faculty. I am sure that the faculty will continue to excel in teaching, research and dissemination activities in line with the vision of the faculty and the university.



Prof. P. Ravirajan
Dean,
Faculty of Science.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Designed by
Mr. N. Thileepan,
Management Assistant, Department of Computer Science.

OVERVIEW



The Faculty of Science (FoS) was established in 1974 at Vaddukoddai in the premises taken over from the undergraduates' section of the Jaffna College. The first batch of 103 students were admitted to the FoS on 25 October 1974 to follow the degree programmes offered in Mathematics and Statistics. Subsequently, degree programmes were expanded to other Physical and Biological Sciences disciplines. In 2007, the Department of Computer Science commenced a new degree programme named as Bachelor of

Science in Computer Science for the students who are directly admitted by the UGC. The annual intake of students to the FoS had steadily increased over the years and the current student population is over 1300. The FoS is enjoying enrollment of students from all parts of the Island as well as foreign students representing all ethnic groups which adds multicultural environment to the Faculty. Distribution of the student population is depicted in the following tables and figures.

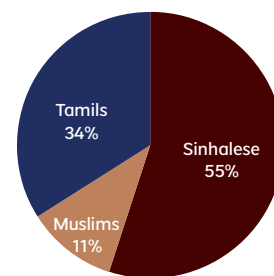


Figure 1: Ethnicity-wise breakdown of the students enrolled in the Academic Year 2018/2019

Table 1: Breakdown of ethnicity of students enrolled at different levels for the academic year 2018/2019

Ethnicity\Level	1G/1S	2G/2S	3G/3M/3S	4M/4X/4S	Total	%
Tamils	140	125	123	54	442	34
Sinhalese	236	192	193	101	722	55
Muslims	42	39	42	17	140	11
Total	418	356	359	172	1304	100

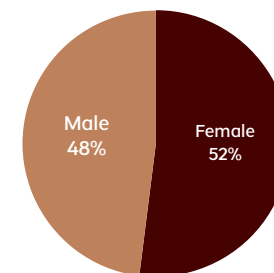


Figure 2: Gender-wise breakdown of the students enrolled in the Academic Year 2018/2019

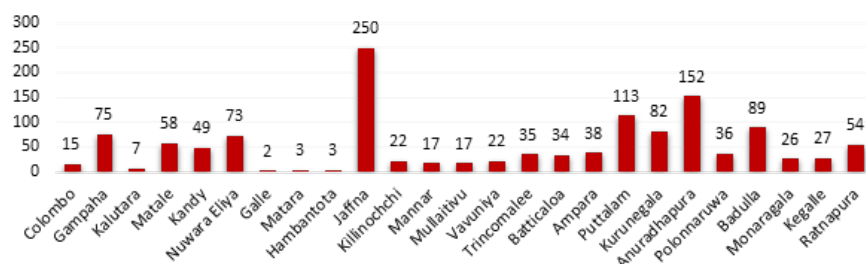


Figure 3: District-wise student count for the academic year 2018/2019

Table 2: The highest academic qualifications earned by the academic staff at each department

Departments	PhD	MPhil	MSc	BSc	Total
Botany	7	3	1	-	11
Chemistry	14	1	-	-	15
Computer Science	6	1	2	1	10
Fisheries	1	1	2	1	5
Mathematics and Statistics	9	5	3	2	19
Physics	6	-	2	-	8
Zoology	6	4	1	1	12
Total	49	15	11	5	80
Percentage	61%	19%	14%	6%	100%



Seven academic staff successfully completed their postgraduate research degrees in the year 2020 and resumed duties to strengthen the teaching and research capacity of the faculty. At present, 94% of the staff possess a postgraduate degree while 80% of the staff possess a research degree. Currently, 98 academic staff and 60 academic support staff render teaching duties to the faculty.

Table 3: Summary of the filled academic cadres in each department

Academic Discipline	Academic staff						Academic Support Staff	
	Senior Professor/ Professor	Associate Professor	Senior Lecturer	Lecturer	Lecturer (Prob.)	Temp. Assistant Lecturer	Demos	Tutor / Instructor/ RA
Botany	-	3	7	-	1	2	7	-
Chemistry	2	1	10	-	1	2	10	2
Computer Science	-	-	7	1	2	2	-	8
Fisheries	1	-	1	1	2	4	5	-
Mathematics & Statistics	1	1	14	1	3	3	8	-
Physics	1	-	5	2	-	4	9	-
Zoology	2	-	7	1	2	1	9	2
TOTAL	7	5	51	6	11	18	48	12
	98						60	

Vision and Mission of the Faculty



Vision

"To be a recognized 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".



Objectives

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

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

Graduate profile

The faculty 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 desire of the trends of the global science community. Ultimately, the BSc Honours degree holder from the university shall be a scholar with versatile skills to cater the needs of local communities and shall become a professional and global citizen.

Discipline Specific Competencies

- ✦ Master a body of knowledge and apply to problem solving situations.
- ✦ Appreciate current developments
- ✦ Collect and use information
- ✦ Critically analyse, fuse and assess knowledge
- ✦ Carryout research, write reports and present findings

Professional Skills

- ✦ Search, organize and communicate knowledge and ideas
- ✦ Recognize issues based on their complexities and urgency
- ✦ Make principled decisions and take responsibility
- ✦ Work independently and in teams

Personal Skills

- ✦ Develop open mindedness and originality
- ✦ Exhibit creativity and engage in lifelong learning
- ✦ Adopt initiative, flexibility, resilience and commitment
- ✦ Uphold self-discipline and integrity

Citizenship Attributes

- ✦ Embrace diversity, respect cultures, values, rights and views of individuals or groups
- ✦ Pursue entrepreneurship, honourable relationships, and leadership
- ✦ Speak up for the general good and to bring new ideas
- ✦ Recognize the social, cultural, environmental and economic dimensions of national and international issues



REFORMS

Establishments

Description	Status
Establishment of Faculty of Marine Sciences and Aquatic Resources Technology at the University of Jaffna	UGC Standing Committee on Science approved the proposal but the Management Committee of the UGC wanted to establish the faculty closer to any existing university premises.
Establishment of Centre for Research in Entomology (CRE)	The Centre was established at the Department of Zoology and inaugurated on 25/09/2020.
Establishment of Centre for Science Education (CSE)	Board of the FoS and the Senate of the University recommended the proposal and the standard operating procedure. The University Council approval is awaited.

Construction of Building and Other Related Structures for Department of Computer Science

The excavation work of a three-storeyed building and other related structures for the Department of Computer Science at the Main Campus of the University commenced on 29 May 2019. 70% of construction work is completed, and is expected to be completed by end of March 2021. The Construction work is financially supported by the World Bank funded AHEAD Operations.

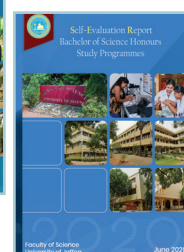
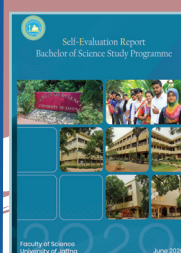


Commencing New Degree Programmes

Description	Status
Introducing Bachelor of Science Honours degree programme in Biology	Structure of the degree programme has been recommended by the Board of the FoS.
Introducing Bachelor of Science Honours degree programme in Molecular biology, Biochemistry and Bioinformatics	The structure of the degree programmes has been reviewed by the subject experts and the stakeholder review is in progress.
Master of Environmental Chemistry and Natural products	Proposal is being prepared
Master of Applied Microbiology	Proposal is being prepared
Master of Clean Energy Technologies	The first batch of students has been enrolled

External Programme Review

The Self-Evaluation Reports (SERS) for the BSc and BSc Hons degree programmes were submitted in June 2020, and BSc Hons (Computer Science) degree programme was submitted in May 2020 to the Quality Assurance Council (QAC) of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for the programme reviews. The report writing was coordinated by the IQAC, Faculty of Science.

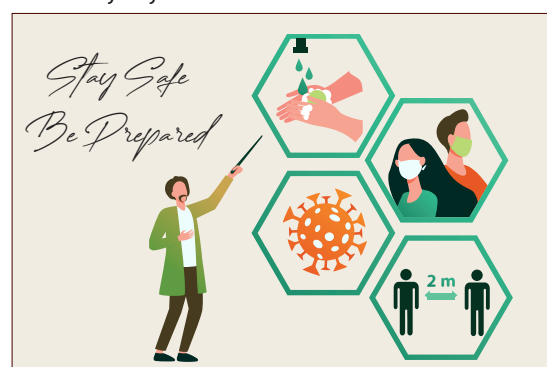


SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

A list of publications co-authored by the faculty are compiled from the Web of Science or Scopus database. The Faculty staff co-authored more than 40% of the total publications co-authored by the staff of the university in year 2020.

Type of Publications	Number
Indexed Journal Publications	40
Refereed Journal Publications (Non-indexed)	21
Conference Papers	05
Conference Abstracts	48
Public Awareness Articles	05

List of publications for 2020 can be viewed at www.sci.jfn.ac.lk/index.php/publications



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Department of Chemistry

The team comprising the following students won the **Second Place** at the Inter-University Debate Competition conducted by the Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon in March 2020;

- Mr. S. Sivanujan
- Ms. Sumudu Nimasha
- Ms. Janya Lumbini
- Ms. Achini Senanayake
- Mr. Dumindu Sankalpa
- Mr. A. Jenevan Irranius
- Ms. M. S. Shanika
- Mr. S. Mathusan



Department of Computer Science

- The Conference paper "Loss functions for optimizing Kappa as the evaluation measure for classifying diabetic retinopathy and prostate cancer images" presented under the track of Signal and Image Processing received the **Best Paper Award** in the 15th IEEE International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS) held from 26 to 28 November 2020 at IIT Ropar, India. The paper is authored by Ms. R. Nirthika, Dr. M. Siyamalan, and Dr. A. Ramanan.

- Mr. Nayananga Muhandiram from Level-3S of the DCS has completed an International competition, the Google Summer of Code 2020, by contributing to the open-source project at The Apache Software Foundation, 01 June 2020 - 24 August 2020 and received a stipend of USD 3,000.

- The IEEE Student Branch and the Computer Society of the University conducted a Lockdown Coding Competition on 18 April 2020. The coding competition was conducted on the HackerRank platform. 125 students from the University of Jaffna participated in the event. Following are the winners of the event:

🏆 **First Place:** Ms. Janani Kangesan (Dept. of Computer Science)

🏆 **Second Place:** Ms. Denuxshe Chelvaratnam (Dept. of Physical Sciences, Vavuniya Campus)

🏆 **Third Place:** Mr. Deshan Harshana Nawarathna (Dept. of Computer Science)

- Mr. Mogan Kausik (Student Reg. No. 2014/CSC/010) is awarded the **University Prize** for attaining the Best Performance in the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree Examination in Computer Science - 2017 and also awarded the **Professor Emeritus Kunaratnam Memorial Prize** for Computer Science for attaining the Best Performance in the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree Examination in Computer Science - 2017.

- Mr. A. Shehan Akalanka Perera (Student Reg. No. 2014/SP/149) is awarded the **University Prize** for having the Best Performance in the Honours Degree Examination in Science - 2017 and also awarded the **Sabalingam Memorial Prize** for Computer Science for having the Best Performance in the Honours Degree Examination in Science - 2017.

Department of Zoology

A Student Research Symposium was organized by the Zoological Students Association (ZSA) on 06 December 2020. The following students won the **Best Presenter Awards** at the event:

- 🏆 **First Place:** Mr. Naruwan Dayananda
- 🏆 **Second Place:** Ms. Vashini Olivia Patrick
- 🏆 **Third Place:** Ms. Vithushi Kuganesan



A three-minute research (3MR) challenge was held in November 2020 with the assistance of the ZSA for the Level 4M students and the graduands. They have presented their research with a single slide within three minutes. The following students won the **Best Presenter Awards** at the event:

- Ms. K. Vithushi,
- Ms. A. Salomi,
- Mr. N. G. Dayananda,
- Mr. N. D. Abeyaweera,
- Mr. R. Nirujan



STUDENT EVENTS

Freshers Welcome

The orientation programme for the new entrants of the academic year 2018/2019 was held from 24th to 28th of August 2020 at the faculty premises.



Department of Chemistry

"UoJ English Speakers Club" was inaugurated on 05 August 2020. The Club conducted an Impromptu Speech Competition with the Jaffna Toastmasters International Club and a Debate Competition between the undergraduates of FoS and G.C.E. (A/L) students of Chundikuli Girls' College.



The Chemical Society conducted an Annual Inter-Level Debate Competition in February 2020.



Department of Zoology

A one-day workshop on "Life-Saving First Aid" was organised by the ZSA in collaboration with the Red Cross Society, Jaffna Branch and conducted on 08 February 2020 at the Library Auditorium, University of Jaffna.



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Department of Botany

A new Molecular Biochemistry Advanced Research laboratory (MBAR) was established with the research grants obtained by Prof. R. Kapilan and the donation of laboratory appliances by Prof. Janusz Zwiazek, University of Alberta, Canada.



Department of Fisheries

The Advanced Fisheries Science laboratory was equipped with PCR Machine, UV Chamber, Conventional High speed mini centrifuge and Shaking Incubator which were purchased under University Research Grant awarded to Prof. (Mrs.) S. Kuganathan and Mrs. S. Sathyaruban. In addition, a Spectrophotometer, Gel Documentation system, Distilled water plant (double), and Microtome were purchased under World Bank funded AHEAD Operations.

Departments of Physics and Chemistry

A Laboratory for Energy Conversion and Storage (LECS) at the Department of Physics and a Chemistry Research Laboratory (CRL) at the Department of Chemistry have been fully renovated and upgraded with necessary high-tech instrument under the AHEAD Development Oriented Research Grant obtained by a research team headed by Dr. K. Vignarooban. These two research laboratories were ceremonially opened on 25 November 2020 by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor. S. Srisatkunarajah. These research laboratories are a very good value addition to foster the research capacity of the faculty.



Department of Zoology

The Centre for Research in Entomology (CRE) was opened by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna on 25 September 2020 at the Natural Science Block-II building of the Department of Zoology. The occasion was witnessed by the Dean/FoS, and Heads of the Departments, staff of the FoS, and a few staff from the Parasitology and Entomology division of the Medical Research Institute, Sri Lanka.



Opening of the Centre for Research in Entomology (CRE)

INTERACTION WITH FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES

The Departments of Fisheries and Physics have been interacting with foreign universities to promote research training for students through exchange/mobility programmes

Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Iceland

One of the Fisheries Science Honours degree student; Ms. Y. Thapeetha, completed six-month training programme in the field of Quality Management of Fish Handling and Processing at Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Iceland from 01 September 2019 to 26 February 2020 as a fellow of United Nations University - Fisheries Training Programme 2019/2020.

University of Tromsø (UiT), Norway

NOR-LANKA BLUE is an innovative research and education network in fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic sciences, established by a team of researchers from Norway (the Arctic University of Norway UiT) and two Higher Education Institutes (University of Ruhuna University of Jaffna) and a Research Institute (National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency (NARA) in Sri Lanka) for 2019-2023. NOR-LANKA BLUE will foster educational and research exchange, capacity building as well as industry linkages. The Following three Fisheries Science Honours degree students went for a semester abroad graduate student mobility programme under NOR-LANKA BLUE project to the University of Tromsø, Norway in October 2020;

- Ms. P. Shobiya
- Ms. J. G. B. Dhanushka Dilini Jayaweera
- Mr. P. M. R. Chanaka Supun Bandara



Prof. Jorge Santos (Project Co-ordinator, NOR-LANKA BLUE project) and Dr. Kathrine Tveiterås (Dean, Faculty of Bio Sciences, Fisheries and Economics) visited the Department of Fisheries from 14 to 17 January 2020 and discussed about future collaboration with the Department staff.



Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway

Prof. Dhayalan Velauthapillai, [HRNCET & CBERC](http://www.project.jfn.ac.lk/hrncet) project Coordinator of the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL), invited the MPhil Students Ms. Sivagowri Shanmugaratnam and Ms. Kajana Thirunavukarasu from University of Jaffna, to have a research stay at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL) for six months period under the student mobility program of NORPART project from 22 November 2020.



Ms. S. Sivagowri and Ms. T. Kajana have been working on 'Water splitting with metal chalcogenide embedded titanium dioxide materials' and 'Nanocomposites for solar energy storage' under the supervision of Prof. V. Dhayalan. These students will also undergo training on different sophisticated equipment related to material characterization and attend seminars that will be arranged by the research group for Advanced Nanomaterials for Clean Energy Applications (ANCEA).

www.project.jfn.ac.lk/hrncet

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIP, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Grants

The FoS won an amount of **LKR 120 Million** under the World Bank funded Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Enriching Learning, Teaching, Assessment (ELTA) and English Language Skills Enhancement (ELSE) Development Project (DP). Also the Departments of Chemistry and Zoology each won an amount of **LKR 18 Million** under the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE DP. In addition the Departments of Physics and Chemistry won an amount of **LKR 40 Million** to carryout collaborative research activities under the AHEAD Development Oriented Research (DOR) Grants. These funds are being utilised to

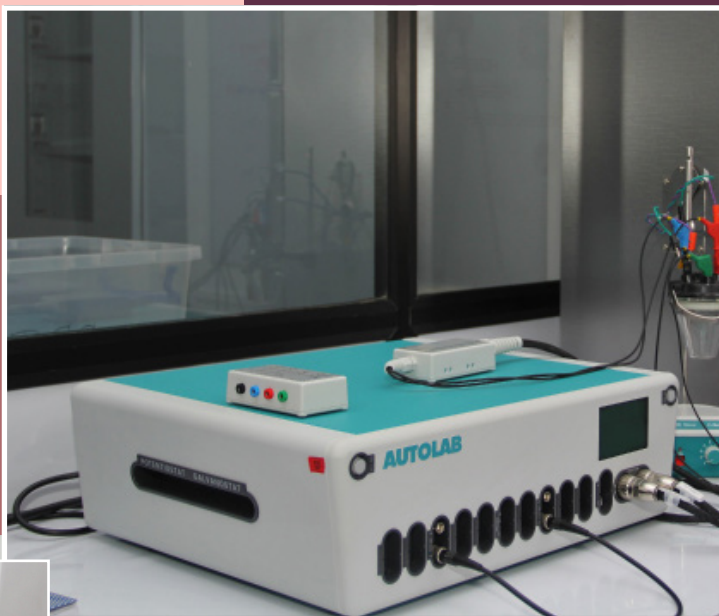
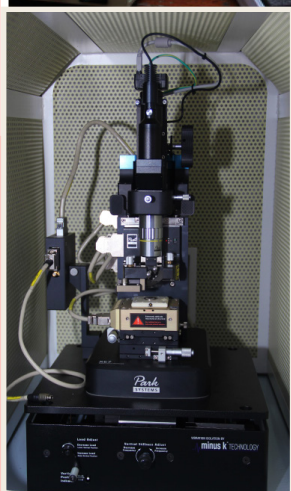
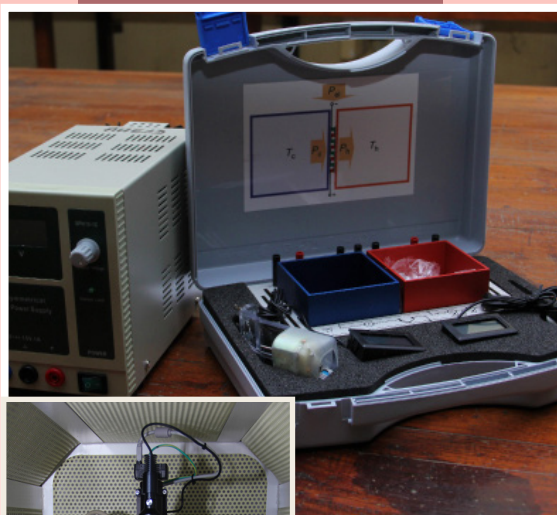
- ✦ Revamp the existing curriculum to best fit the modern job market,
- ✦ Procure modern equipment and software,
- ✦ Improve infrastructure facilities,
- ✦ Renovate laboratories, and Conduct workshops to staff and students for capacity developments.

Following are some of the equipment purchased under these grants;



Following are the team members of the AHEAD Operations at FoS

- ▣ **AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Faculty-level Project:** Dr. K. Thabotharan (Project Coordinator), Prof. K. Velauthamurthy, Dr. T. Pathmathas, Dr. (Mrs.) W. S. Thulasitha, Dr. (Ms.) K. Namagal
- ▣ **AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Department-level (Chemistry) Project:** Prof. (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan (Project Coordinator), Dr. G. Sashikesh, Dr. (Mrs.) Y. Yohi
- ▣ **AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Department-level (Zoology) Project:** Dr. (Mrs.) S. Abyerami (Project Coordinator), Dr. K. Gajapathy, Mrs. S. Pratheepa
- ▣ **AHEAD DOR (Physics & Chemistry) Project:** Dr. K. Vignarooban (Project Coordinator), Prof. K. Velauthamurthy, Dr. G. Sashikesh and Mr. S. Senthuran



Prof. S.N. Surendran secured a research grant from the Switzerland National Science Foundation under the - Swiss Programme for International Research by Scientific Investigation Team (SPIRIT) worth **CHF 152,158 (≈ LKR 33 Million)**.



Dr. M. Thanihaichelvan, Prof. S.N. Surendran, Prof. P. Ravirajan, Dr. (Ms.) S. Ubendran, Dr. T. Kumanan, and Mr. R. Valluvan received a research grant (Grant No. RG/COVID/2020/HS/02) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) worth of **LKR 1.5 Million** for the project titled "Development of an Electronic Detection System for Rapid Diagnosis of COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2".

Fellowship

Dr. K. Vignarooban (Senior Lecturer in Physics) received the Fulbright Fellowship funded by the US State Department to pursue a Post-Doctoral research training at the Arizona State University, USA starting from 01 April 2020. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, commencement date of the fellowship programme has been postponed.



Scholarships



Ms. J. Samantha Tharani (Lecturer in Computer Science) obtained a Griffith University Postgraduate Research Scholarship (GUPRS), Griffith University International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (GUIPRS), and a scholarship under the World Bank funded AHEAD Operations to pursue a PhD degree programme at the Griffith University, Australia from December 2020.



Ms. P. Shobiya (Lecturer in Fisheries) obtained financial support for and MPhil degree research and for semester abroad graduate student mobility programme under the NOR-LANKA BLUE project and proceeded to University of Tromsø, Norway in October 2020 for six-months training.



The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has extended the scholarship of **Mr. K. Prashanthan** (Lecturer in Physics) based on his research performance for the second time to continue his PhD degree programme at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany.



Mr. K. Gunaalan (Lecturer in Fisheries) won DTU scholarship to pursue a PhD degree programme at Technical University of Denmark from September 2020.

Awards

Dr. M. Thanihaichelvan (Senior Lecturer in Physics) has been awarded the "International Junior Faculty Award for nanomaterial engineering" by the TASME (Association of Scientists, Doctors and Engineers in USA and Canada) for his research work on "CNT Field effect transistors as biosensor platform and their potential for fast detection of COVID-19" which is presented at TASME-VS2020.



WEBINARS, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Webinars

"**Teaching, Research and Assessment through e-Learning Technologies**" by Prof. R. Sri Ranjan, University of Manitoba, Canada, was conducted to the academics in the FoS on 13 November 2020.

Department of Chemistry

"**Autolab: Electrochemical techniques and applications in solar, battery and corrosion**" supported by Autolab 302N was held on 01/06/2020 and 15/06/2020 to the Technical Officers and researchers.

"**Action Project Proposal Development**" by Ms. Joanne Kotelawala (Master Facilitator-Active Citizen Programme of British Council, Sri Lanka) held on 10/06/2020 under the Department's AHEAD, ELTA-ELSE Development Project.

Department of Computer Science

The DCS conducted several webinars with the assistance of the Computer Society (CompSoc) and the IEEE Student Branch of the University of Jaffna:

"**How to cope with Stress in Online Learning during COVID-19 Pandemic Situation?**" by Ms. Rasini Bandara (Psychologist at Mind Heals) held on 30/12/2020.

"**Learn with IBM**" by Ms. Melissa Sassi (Global Head of IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator), Ms. Phila Phungula (IBM Z Developer Advocate), and Ms. Lella Halloum (IBM Student Hub Senator & Z Ambassador) held on 28/12/2020.

"**IEEE Awareness Session**" by Mr. Chamika Sudusinghe (Sectional Student Representative, IEEE Sri Lanka Section) held on 24/12/2020.

"**Leverage the Power of LinkedIn to Land on your Dream Job**" by Mr. Sharanyan Sharma (Founder & Managing Director - Extreme SEO Internet Solutions) held on 19/12/2020.

"**User Interface/User Experience Design**" by Mr. Rasi-ka Gunasena (Architect - UI/UX Specialist, Virtusa) and Mr. Chandra Wijesekara (Architect - Technology, Virtusa) held on 07/12/2020.

"**Introduction to .NET Core Skills**" by Mr. Heresh Jayabalan (Consultant - Technology, Virtusa) held on 02/12/2020.

"**Project Management Methodologies**" by Mr. Lahiru Ratnapala (Senior Manager - Delivery, Virtusa) held on 30/11/2020.

"**Introduction to Quality Engineering**" by Ms. Rangika Perera (Senior Manager - QA, Virtusa) held on 25/11/2020.

"**Introduction to Python**" by Mr. Tharaka Mahabage (Architect infrastructure operations, Virtusa) held on 23/11/2020.

"**Harnessing the Power of Quantum Computing to Solve the Unsolvable**" by Dr. Jeewika Ranaweera (Principal Hardware Engineer, Oracle, California) held on 21/11/2020.

"**Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**" by Mr. Chathusha Wijenayake (Consultant-Technology, Virtusa) held on 18/11/2020.



"Introduction to Salesforce" by Ms. Jean Brenda Soundaralingam (Senior Consultant-Technology, Virtusa) held on 11/11/2020.

"Journey Through Automating Performance Improvement with RDBMS" by Dr. M. Sabesan (Senior Database Engineer at Amazon Web Services, California; Former Senior Software Engineer at Oracle Corporation, California) held on 08/08/2020.

"Introduction to Robotics" by Dr. Thrishantha Nanayakkara (Associate Professor in Design Engineering and Robotics, Imperial College London, UK.) held on 17/06/2020.

"Introduction to Game Development" by Mr. Poorna Perera (3D Artist - LiveRoom), organized by the IEEE Student Branch of the University of Jaffna in collaboration with LiveRoom held on 11/06/2020 and 15/06/2020.

"A Woman in Engineering" by Ms. Mehak Azeem (Member World's SDG Regional Advocate 2020) held on 17/05/2020.

"TechOps" by Mr. Misnad Haque (Director-Technology, Virtusa) held on 06/05/2020.

"IBM AI Solutions on Power - Key Features and Guided Exercises" by Ms. Clarisse Taaffe-Hedglin (Executive IT Architect - IBM, USA) held on 23/04/2020.

"Introduction to New QA Trends" by Mr. Dushantha Pradeep (Lead Consultant - QA, Virtusa) held on 22/04/2020.

"Machine Learning on OpenPOWER Systems for Academic Research" by Dr. Chekuri Choudary, (Technical Lead - IBM Systems) held on 10/04/2020.

"Latest Research Projects (To find Cure for COVID-19) Using Summit" by Dr. Bronson Messer, (Director of Science at Oak Ridge National Lab) held on 10/04/2020.

"Experience Sharing of IEEE SLSYW Congress 2019 and Introduction to IEEE" by Mr. Dilum de Silva (Co-Chair of the IEEE SYWC 2019) held on 26/01/2020.

"Zero to Hero with GIT & GITHUB" by Mr. Ahamed Safnaji (GitHub Campus Expert, Trainee Software Engineer at Virtusa) held on 25/01/2020.

"Importance of Machine Learning in Today's Era" by Prof. Ms. S. Padma (Department of Computer Applications, K.S. Rangasamy College of Arts and Science, Tiruchengode, India) held on 24/01/2020.

WORKSHOPS

Department of Botany

A hands-on workshop on Mendeley reference management was conducted to the academic staff of the University of Jaffna. The workshop was organized by the Staff Development Centre (SDC), University of Jaffna, and conducted by Dr. E.C. Jeyaseelan, on 19/09/2020 as an Advisor of Mendeley Community, Elsevier.

A workshop on "Quantitative Ecology with Special Reference to Vegetation" was jointly organised by the Department of Botany and the University of Peradeniya held on 27 December 2020 via Zoom and 50 students participated. Prof. Anoma Perera, Chair Professor of the Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya functioned as the resource person. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. (Ms.) N. Krishnapillai.

Department of Computer Science

The Computer Society of the DCS (CompSoc) organised four workshop sessions on Web Development Frameworks, in which the DCS students have voluntarily served as resource persons and around 80 to 120 students have actively participated in each session held on 03/10/2020 and 07/10/2020.

Department of Zoology

A workshop on "Wildlife and Nature Photography" was held on 31/10/2020 under the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE grant in order to make interest and provide technical knowledge on DSLR photography and Wild Life photography.

A half-day workshop on "Effective usage of Open Education Resource (OER)" delivered by Dr. E.Y.A. Charles was held on 28/09/2020 at the Computer Unit under the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE grant.

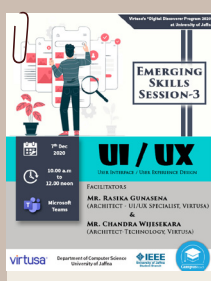
TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Department of Botany

Hands-on training programme on Performing biological experiments by handling the latest equipment was conducted to the technical officers of the Department of Botany for two weeks from 18/08/2020 to 28/08/2020. All the academic staff of the Department of Botany, Dr. K. Gajapathy from the Department of Zoology and Mr. A. Thabesan from the Department of Chemistry voluntarily functioned as resource persons.

Department of Physics

A training programme on "Atomic Force Microscope (AFM) and X-Ray Diffractometer (XRD) as effective research tools for material research" was held at the Clean Energy Research Laboratory (CERL) for the research students on 12 and 13 September 2020 under the HRNCE and CBERC projects. Fourteen PhD/MPhil research students from the National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy and Universities of Peradeniya, Ruhuna and Kelaniya underwent comprehensive training on using the sophisticated equipment. Dr. (Ms.) U. Sutharsini and Dr. M. Thanaiachelvan served as resource persons.



Department of Zoology

A training programme on "**Sandfly Identification**" was conducted by the CRE to train staff from the Medical Research Institute, Colombo on 25 and 27 September 2020. The training was facilitated by Dr. K. Gajapathy and assisted by Ms. T. Tharmatha and Ms. A. Salomi.

A short-term training on "**Exposure to the tools and equipment related to water quality assessment**" was offered to the Technical Officers and Academic staff attached to the Departments of Botany and Zoology. It was held on 14 August 2020 at the NWSDB Laboratory, Vavuniya under the Department's AHEAD ELTA-ELSE grant.

A training programme was organised by the CRE and conducted on 27 August 2020 to six health staff from RDHS Anuradhapura. The training was facilitated by Dr. K. Gajapathy and assisted by Mr. S. Tharsan and Mr. S. Aranraj.



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Science Education for Bright Future - 2020

The Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna conducted a programme referred to as "Science Education for Bright Future - 2020" to promote and encourage scientific and technological creativity interest among the school children in the Northern Province. This programme was initiated by Prof. J.P. Jeyadevan the then Dean of the Faculty of Science, and coordinated by Dr. (Mrs). J. Prabagar with the support of all the staff and students of the Faculty of Science. Over 40,000 school children and other few thousands of non-students participated in this outreach activity from 4th to 7th of March 2020 at the premises of the Faculty of Science. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Prof. K. Kandasamy (the then Competent Authority of the University of Jaffna), Mr. L. Ilangovan (Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs, Northern Provincial), Mr. R. Sivaruban (Accountant of the Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs, Northern Provincial), and Prof. J.P. Jeyadevan as special guests along with members of the University Council, Deans of the Faculties, Heads of the Departments, and other staff in the FoS. Models and exhibits were displayed in the Departments of Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, and Zoology under several themes. The event was funded by the Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs, Northern Provincial, HRCET-NORPART Project, University of Jaffna, and selling tickets to the participants.



A gallery of the SBF 2020 can be viewed at www.jfn.ac.lk/index.php/gallery/sbf2020

Department of Fisheries

💡 **Prof. (Mrs.) S. Kuganathan** served as a Professional Advisor for the Blue Flag programme lead by Marine Environment Protection Authority regional office Jaffna for an awareness programme at the Karainagar DS Office regarding the marine environmental resources and their status at Casurina, to the public on 03 March 2020. She also served as a resource person for the Residential Workshop on 'Perspectives in Blue Bio-economics' held at NIFATI, Kalawewa, Sri Lanka from 10 to 20 January 2020. She delivered a talk on "Marine Fishery Resources and Potential of Sri Lanka" and a keynote address on "Towards sustainable fisheries: an approach to Sri Lanka" in the Agrifish 2020: Sixth International Conference on Agriculture & Fisheries, Systems & Technology held on 06 November 2020.



Department of Chemistry

💡 Chemical Society has jointly hosted an awareness programme for School Children to promote UN Sustainable Development Goals with AIESEC, Sri Lanka in March 2020.



💡 The Chemical Society of the University of Jaffna organised a promotion programme on recycling of used PET bottles in collaboration with Coca-Cola beverages on 15 September 2020.

💡 **Dr. (Mrs.) J. Prabagar** served as a resource person for the workshop on "G.C.E. (A/L) Chemistry Practical" to the School students from Mullaitivu zone at Mullaitivu Vidyanda college on 20 February 2020 which was jointly organised by Chemical Society, University of Jaffna and Jaffna Science Association (JSA) under the World Bank funded AHEAD Operations.

💡 **Dr. G. Sashikesh** served as a resource person for the training programme on "Proper Solid Waste Management" for waste collectors in Chavakachcheri Urban Council held on 28 February 2020 and also served as a resource person for the training programme on "Plastic Waste Management and Material Recovery" for waste collectors in Chavakachcheri Urban Council on 19 June 2020.

💡 **Dr. P. Iyngaran** delivered a talk entitled "Climate Change and Adaptation" at the two-day residential workshop on Climate Change Adaptation and Identification of Community based Adaptation Strategies for Northern Province Landscape jointly organized by Global Environment Facilities (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP), UNDP and Sri Lanka Environment Exploration Society (SLEES) on 12 September 2020. He also delivered a talk entitled "Sustainable Solid Waste Management" at the Climathon-2020 on 17 October 2020.

💡 **Dr. (Mrs.) S. Yohi** delivered a talk on "Hydrogen energy: The future fuel" for Climathon-2020 on 27 October 2020. She also delivered a talk on "Photocatalytic hydrogen Production under Extended Solar Irradiation" at the workshop on Clean Energy Technologies, Coimbatore Institute of Technology (CIT), Coimbatore, India held from 7 to 9 February 2020.

Department of Computer Science

💡 "IEEE SL Inspire Career Compass for School Children" was conducted by SL2College in the Department of Computer Science, University of Jaffna in collaboration with IEEE Student Branch of the University of Jaffna and IEEE Sri Lanka Section on 06 & 07 March 2020. Around 100 school students from the Jaffna Peninsula attended the programme.



💡 **Dr. E. Y. A. Charles** delivered a talk on "Knowledge access and Sharing: Tools and Technologies for Higher Academic Research" in an International Webinar held on 10 September 2020. The Webinar was jointly organised by the Department of Library and Information Science, Bharathidasan University, Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli, India, and the Library, University of Jaffna. He also served as a panelist for the webinar on "Making Workforce Ready - Post COVID-19" as part of the Digital IT/BPM Week 2020 organised by the SLASSCOM, Sri Lanka Exports Development Board (EDB), ICTA, and Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS), held on 29 May 2020.

💡 **Dr. K. Thabotharan** conducted a seminar titled "Using Zoom to Conduct Classes and Meetings" to the staff of the Viththiyananthan Library, University of Jaffna, on 22 May 2020 and he conducted a two-hour career guidance seminar entitled "Computing and Career Prospects" to the Career Guidance Counsellors in the Provincial Department of Education, Northern Province on 29 June 2020. Dr. K. Thabotharan participated as one of the resource persons for the seminar entitled "Online Course Design and Assessment Methods for Student Centered Learning", led by Prof. Lani Gunawardena and organized by the Fulbright Commission of Sri Lanka held on 18 November 2020.

💡 **Mr. S. Suthakar** served as the Chair of the Technical Session on "Computing & Information Systems" of the 12th Applied Science, Business & Industrial Research Symposium (ASBIRS), which was held on 22 December 2020 at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, in the theme of "Overcoming hardships and challenges through innovation".

Department of Zoology

💡 **Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sivaruban** served as a resource person for the World Elephant Day 2020 organised by the Center for Children's Happiness (CCH) at Sarasalai held on 16 August 2020.

💡 **Mr. S. Arthiyan** served as a resource person for the World Wetland Day celebrations organised by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) of Kilinochchi District held on 5 February 2020 and a workshop organised by the CCH for the science teachers at the Valikamam Zone, Jaffna. He has extended his expertise to the PCR laboratory established at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna for the SARS-COVID-19 PCR testing.

💡 ZSA conducts a community outreach programme on landscaping in the Kavutharimunai, Pooneryn with the financial support from the UNDP/GEP/SGP grant worth of USD 3500. The project is coordinated by **Mr. S. Arthiyan**, **Dr. K. Gajapathy**, and Ms. Subanky Suvendran (Project Assistant).

Department of Physics

💡 **Dr. M. Thanaihaichelvan** delivered an invited talk on "CNT FETs Devices for future biosensors" at the workshop on Clean Energy Technologies, Coimbatore Institute of Technology (CIT), Coimbatore, India held from 07 to 09 February 2020. He also served as a member of the International Technical Committee of the 9th International Conference on Nanostructures, Nanomaterials and Nanoengineering (ICN-NN 2020) held on 30 October 2020 at Fukuoka, Japan.

💡 Group members of the CERL conducted an awareness programme on "Solar Power Utilization for school students" in Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Amparai districts. This programme was supported by the State Ministry of Technology and Innovation and the Norwegian Embassy in Sri Lanka.



APPOINTMENTS 2020



Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah
Vice-Chancellor
University of Jaffna



Prof. P. Ravirajan
Dean
Faculty of Science



Dr. T. Pathmathas
Head
Department of Physics



Dr. P. Iyngaran
Head
Department of Chemistry
Alumni Officer, University of Jaffna



Prof. R. Kapilan
Head
Department of Botany



Mr. S. Suthakar
Head
Department of Computer Science



Prof. (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathanan
Director/Centre for Quality Assurance
University of Jaffna



Dr. K. Thabotharan
Director/Career Guidance Unit
Deputy Director/Well Being Centre
University of Jaffna



Dr. E. Y. A. Charles
Director
Operational Technical Secretariat
University of Jaffna



Dr. T. Eswaramohan
Director/ University Business Linkage
University of Jaffna



Dr. A. Manjeevan
Lecturer
Department of Chemistry

PROMOTIONS

- ◆ Prof. S.N. Surendran
 - ◆ Prof. (Mrs.) R. Gnaneswaran
 - ◆ Prof. A.C. Thavaranjith
 - ◆ Dr. (Mrs.) N. Rajkumar
 - ◆ Dr. A. Vengadaramana
 - ◆ Dr. G. Sashikesh
 - ◆ Dr. R. Prasanthan
 - ◆ Dr. N. Varathan
 - ◆ Dr. T. Pathmathas
 - ◆ Dr. (Mrs.) T. Jeyaseelan
 - ◆ Dr. (Mrs.) S. Selvakumar
 - ◆ Mr. B. Muraleetharan
 - ◆ Dr. M. Thanihaichelvan
 - ◆ Mr. M. Annanthakrishna
 - ◆ Mr. P.T.J. Jasotharan
 - ◆ Mr. V.K. Jeyakumar
 - ◆ Mrs. S. Mythily
 - ◆ Mr. T. Mathiamuthan
 - ◆ Mr. A.N. Jeevanaraja
- Senior Professor in Zoology
 - Professor in Zoology
 - Associate Professor in Botany
 - Senior Lecturer Grade I in Botany
 - Senior Lecturer Grade I in Botany
 - Senior Lecturer Grade I in Chemistry
 - Senior Lecturer Grade I in Mathematics
 - Senior Lecturer Grade I in Mathematics
 - Senior Lecturer Grade I in Physics
 - Senior Lecturer Grade II in Botany
 - Senior Lecturer Grade II in Chemistry
 - Senior Lecturer Grade II in Mathematics
 - Senior Lecturer Grade II in Physics
 - Senior Lecturer Grade II in Mathematics
 - Staff Technical Officer Grade II
 - Staff Technical Officer Grade II
 - Staff Technical Officer Grade II
 - Staff Technical Officer Grade II
 - Technical Officer Grade I

RETIREMENTS



Mr. S. Ravikumar
Department of Fisheries
Works Aide (Supra Grade)
retired in April 2020



Mr. S. Anandaraja
Department of Physics
Works Aide (Grade I)
retired in June 2020



Mr. N. Bakeerathan
Department of Zoology
Staff Technical Officer
retired in July 2020



Mr. S. Sivadenthiran
Department of Zoology
Works Aide (Grade I)
retired in 2020

Counsellors, Coordinators and Members of the Faculty Subcommittees

Faculty staff have been actively contributing to the development of the faculty as Coordinators, Deputy Proctor, Academic Counsellors, Students' Counsellors and members of the following subcommittees / cells of the faculty board.

- Building Committee
- Biosafety Committee
- Career Guidance Cell
- Committee on Faculty Strategic Management Plan
- Curriculum Development, Revision, and Monitoring Committee
- Editorial Committee for Faculty Newsletter
- Health Promotion Committee
- Internal Quality Assurance Cell
- Science Faculty Research Committee
- Web & IT Service Committee

☛ Details of the Subcommittees can be found at www.sci.jfn.ac.lk/index.php/sub-committees

☛ Details about Proctor and Counsellors can be found at www.sci.jfn.ac.lk/index.php/student-counsellors

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Dr. K. Vignarooban** functioned as one the international technical committee members representing Sri Lanka to successfully conduct 9th International Conference on Material Science and Engineering Technology held on October 9-12, 2020 at Kyoto, Japan.
- University Grants Commission appointed the following academics of the FoS to serve as members to draft subject benchmark statements (SBSs) for the respective subjects in Science/Computing:

Name	Subject
Prof. J.P. Jeyadevan	Chemistry
Prof. K. Velauthamurthy	Chemistry
Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah	Mathematics
Prof. P. Ravirajan	Physics and Electronics
Prof. (Mrs.) S. Kuganathan	Zoology
Prof. S.N. Surendran	Zoology
Dr. A. Ramanan	Computing
Mr. S. Suthakar	Computing

- **Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah** has been appointed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) as a Consultant of the 'City University of Northern Province' project. He has also been appointed by National Education Commission as a member of Standing Committees on Higher Education with effect from 01 July 2020.
- **Prof. P. Ravirajan** has been appointed by the National Education Commission as a member of the Standing Committee on General Education with effect from 01 July 2020. He has also been serving as one of the members of Research Council of the National Fundamental Studies, Kandy since August 2020. He served as one of the Institutional Reviewers of University of Moratuwa in 2020.
- **Prof. R. Kapilan** has been serving as a member of the Editorial Board that involved in publishing Biology Resource Book for G.C.E Advanced Level.
- **Dr. T. Pathmathas** has been appointed as a member of the Steering Committee of CERN programme, Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Sri Lanka.
- **Dr. A. Ramanan** was appointed as a member of the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Computing, UGC to prepare a checklist for evaluating IT curricula in state universities of Sri Lanka as per the IEEE/ACM guidelines and the checklist was submitted in September 2020. He was a member of the UGC Standing Committee on Computing from June 2017 to December 2020.
- **Dr. K. Thabotharan** is a member of the Board of Directors of Lanka Education and Research Network (LEARN) and he is a member of the Standing Committee on Career Guidance of the UGC.
- **Dr. E.Y.A. Charles** is a member of the Standing Committee on the Development of Information Technology Infrastructure and Online Education of the UGC.

- **Dr. T. Eswaramohan** is a member of the Standing Committee on University Business Linkage (UBL) at the UGC since April 2020.
- **Mr. S. Suthakar** is a member of the Standing Committee on Computing of the UGC since September 2020.
- **Prof. (Mrs.) S. Kuganathan** serves as a member of the Editorial Board of Journal of Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy.
- **Prof. K. Velauthamurthy** has been appointed as a Programme Reviewer for the Science Degree Programme in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura by the Quality Assurance Council (QAC) of the UGC. He is also a Fellow of Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon (FICHEM).
- **Dr. T. Manoranjan** has been appointed as a Programme Reviewer for the Science Degree Programme in the University of Kelaniya by the QAC of the UGC.
- **Dr. P. Iyngaran** has been serving as a Liaison Officer representing the Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna to the National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka. He has served as a resource person for the National STEM Policy and Strategy Statement 2020-2030, Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development, Parliament Select Committee. He also serves as a University Project Coordinator for the Creative Youth Engagement for Pluralism (C-YEP), National Peace Council of Sri Lanka from 01 May 2020. In addition, he serves as the Chairman of Royal Society of Chemistry (Sri Lanka Section) since June 2020.
- **Dr. G. Sashikesh** serves as a University Coordinator for the Registration of Sri Lankan in international Digital Research and Development platforms in Science and Technology. He serves as a Member of the Editorial Board, Journal of Plant Biotechnology and Microbiology, and Journal of Sustainability in Environment. In addition, he serves as the University Coordinator for the Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and serves as an Academic Board Member of the College of Chemical Science of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, Sri Lanka.
- **Dr. (Mrs.) J. Prabagar** served as the Chairperson for Section A of the Jaffna Science Association (JSA), 2020.
- **Dr. (Mrs.) S. Yohi** served as a Guest Editor in the Special Issue "Titanium Dioxide-based Nanostructured Catalysts for Solar Energy Production and Storage" of Catalysts, published by MDPI.
- **Prof. (Mrs.) M. Senthilnathan** served as one of the Guest Editors of the Proceedings of the International Conference on Advanced Materials for Clean Energy and Health Applications in Materials Today: Proceedings, 23(I), pp. 1-138, 2020, an Elsevier publication.

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