



KDU NEWSLETTER

GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY
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NEWS

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2020

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University commenced its two-day International Research Conference under the theme “*Holistic Approach to National Growth and Security*,” on 15th October 2020. The conference was held for the 13th consecutive year, and its inaugural session was graced by the Hon. Minister of Education, Professor GL Peiris as the Chief Guest, and Professor Kapila Perera, Secretary to the Ministry of Education, was the Keynote Speaker of the event.

Major General Milinda Pieris, Vice Chancellor-KDU, in his welcome address, highlighted the significance of the Conference taking place in a challenging environment, and he appreciated the commitment of the University staff for the continuity of events even under the most trying circumstances.

The Chief Guest, Professor GL Peiris, expressed his appreciation of selecting an extremely appropriate and timely theme for deliberations in this year’s conference. Further, he elucidated the significance of the theme that highlights the intimate relationship between national security and development, explaining with empirical evidence from the nation’s recent past. He also explained how development efforts undermining security could be detrimental to a country’s future. Speaking about higher education in the country, Prof. Peiris emphasised on the urgent need for reforms to bridge the gap between education and employment opportunities. In conclusion, he expressed his opinion that with its readiness for innovation, its quick identification of contemporary national needs, and its appropriate interventions, KDU renders an invaluable service for the nation.

The Keynote Speaker, Professor Kapila Perera, explained the concept of security in a broader perspective, and elaborated how the absence of security would jeopardise our expectations of development. He also emphasised the need for a holistic approach in education, and stated that KDU has proven to be an institution that adopts such an approach. With his close affinity with KDU as one of its alumni, Prof. Perera commented on the success of the experimentations of KDU as a new model in education where civil and military students engage in their higher educational pursuits.

The two-day conference attracted over six hundred and fifty paper submissions for the technical sessions, and the first day of the conference was successfully concluded with the completion of the nine Faculty plenary sessions that were enriched by presentations by national and international scholars of eminence in each discipline on various sub-themes. The event was a blend of physical and virtual presentations, displaying the University’s ability to adapt according to challenging circumstances. The completion of the technical sessions of the nine faculties held on the 16th marked the successful completion of this annual event.



COMMENCEMENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACULTY OF COMPUTING, SOUTHERN CAMPUS



The Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil visited the Southern Campus KDU on 17th July 2020 to ceremonially initiate the construction of the Faculty of Computing. Following the event, the Vice Chancellor opened the newly constructed bachelor quarters for the benefit of academic and administrative staff.



COMMENCEMENT OF TWO NEW DEGREE PROGRAMMES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES

The Department of Languages received the Senate and BOM approval for commencing two new degree programmes in Bachelor of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Bachelor of Science in Applied Data Science Communication. Both programmes are three-year degree programmes that aim to create competent professionals equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the demands of the respective industries. These degree programmes mark a significant milestone in the Department history as they are the first ever degrees to be offered by the Department of Languages.

SOUTHERN CAMPUS, KDU HOSTS THE CVCD MEETING

The 432nd meeting of Vice Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) was held on 01st of August 2020, and it was hosted by the Southern Campus, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. An intellectual congregation of 21 Vice Chancellors and Rectors representing state universities and campuses attended the event. The prime focus of the meeting was contemplating on crucial developments, and challenges encountered by the higher education sector, with a view to reaching pragmatic resolutions.



PRE-SESSIONAL ENGLISH COURSE FOR LSC STUDENTS

The inauguration of the Pre-session English Course for Master of Business Administration in Logistics Management Course No. 07, offered by the Department of Languages, for the student officers of the Army School of Logistics (ALS) - Trincomalee, was held on 06th July 2020 at the KDU Mini Auditorium. Certificates were awarded to 21 officers who successfully completed the course on 25th September 2020 at KDU Main Auditorium. The ceremony was graced by the Vice Chancellor of KDU, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil as the Chief Guest.



PUBLICATION OF “MEGHA”, A TRILINGUAL ANTHOLOGY BY KDU STUDENTS AND STAFF

Megha: (In)visible lines of creativity in trilingual expression, an anthology consisting of creative writings in the form of poetry, short stories, essays and play scripts by KDU staff and students, was published as an e-book. The publication is the culmination of the Creative Writing Project conducted by the Department of Languages during the nationwide lockdown, and consists of winning and shortlisted entries received during the competition that was held in early 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. An event with readings, short performances based on selected poems, a certificate awarding ceremony, and book launch will be held in 2021.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL SCIENCES AND MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

The 3rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Technical Sciences and Management Society (TSMS) of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was held on 28th September 2020 at the University premises. The AGM demarcated a major milestone of the Department of Management and Finance, with the installation of the Executive Committee of TSMS, for the years 2020/2021.



SOUTHERN CAMPUS SPEARHEADS REFORESTATION

In cognisance of the local and global need of greenifying the Mother Earth, the Southern Campus- KDU under the auspices of its visionary leader Brigadier Prasad Edirisinghe, initiated the planting of saplings of an iconic condiment, spice and herb of the island, Cinnamon, in the campus premises. The endeavour has set a timely example to Southern Sri Lanka. The military staff contributed their manpower to instigate this endeavour which would be continued in time to come as well.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE FACULTY OF COMPUTING-2020

The inaugural meeting of the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Computing was held on 03rd September 2020 at the Faculty of Engineering conference hall. Alumni members from the intakes 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 participated in this event. Moreover, the staff members from the Faculty including Dean, Faculty of Computing, Commodore JU Gunaseela USP, psc participated in this occasion. Further, the Dean of the Faculty of Computing, the President of the Alumni Association, and the Faculty Industrial Training Engineer, Major RMM Pradeep addressed the participants. The proceedings were followed by the appointment of the Alumni Office Bearers, and the discussion on work endeavours.



SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE PRE-SESSIONAL ENGLISH COURSE FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES FOR THE STUDENT OFFICERS OF THE DEFENCE SERVICES COMMAND & STAFF COLLEGE (DSCSC)

The Pre-Sessional English Course for Academic Purposes for the DSCSC Course No. 15 was conducted by the Department of Languages (DoL) from 05th October to 18th December. A total of 142 students from the Tri-Forces were enrolled for the course, marking the highest number of course participants in recent times. Special attention was given to developing the academic and research writing skills, and presentation skills of the students while grooming them to become autonomous learners.



THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE SHORT COURSE ON “CULTURAL LINKAGES TOWARDS AN ASIAN IDEOLOGY”

The inauguration ceremony of the short course on “Cultural Linkages towards an Asian Ideology” was held on 27th October 2020 at the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Vice Chancellor, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Professor Hajime Tozaki delivered the keynote speech. Senior Professor Anoma Abayarathne conducted a lecture on “Regional Cooperation & Economic Development in Asia”, the first lecture of the series. The course is organised by the Department of Social Sciences, FMSH under a research grant awarded by the Eurasia Foundation (from Asia) in Japan.



PROJECT ON “PROMOTING NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION (NVC) AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDIA”

The Department of Social Sciences of the Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities (FMSH), KDU is delighted to have received support to initiate a project to teach Non-Violent Communications (NVC), and instill knowledge on the ethical and responsible use of media. Through a grant worth more than 21 million rupees from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the European Union’s (EU) Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, the proposed initiative was launched in November 2020 at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), Sri Lanka.

This joint venture between KDU and UNDP will mainly focus on securing quality education, peace, justice, and strong institutions, which has a significant relevance to Higher Education and Social Integration in Sri Lanka’s National Policy Framework. The initiative will engage and educate school students, undergraduates, young media personnel/journalists, military and police officers in Media and Communication Studies. Covering a broader scope, the project expects to prevent violent extremism, and promote ethical use of media among youth. As the first comprehensive academic programme of this kind in the Sri Lankan university system, there are high expectations that its learnings and outcomes will pave the way for other successful programmes of a similar nature in the future.



This project is co-funded by the European Union

THE FOUNDATION LAYING FOR THE MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING LABORATORY AND THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING LABORATORY

The Foundation Laying Ceremony for the proposed three-storied building for the Building Materials and Construction Engineering Laboratory and the Geotechnical Engineering Laboratory of the Department of Civil Engineering was held on 20th November 2020. The Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil laid the foundation stone for the new building. DVC (Defence and Admin), DVC (Academics), Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Deans of other Faculties, Heads of Departments and academic staff of the Faculty of Engineering, and senior military officers were present at the event.



KDU RESEARCH GRANTS 2020

The Office of the Dean Research and Development advertised the call for KDU research grants in June 2020. Sixteen proposals received the grant after being reviewed by subject experts in the respective fields. A total sum of LKR 21,707,550 was awarded under KDU research grants-2020 to successful candidates including Dr. KMN Kumarasinghe, Dr. D Govindapala, Dr. PH Premaratne, Ms. TI Withanawasam, Prof. CL Goonasekara, Dr. AD De Silva, Lt. Col. (Dr) WMMS Bandara and Dr. GDI Rodrigo from Faculty of Medicine, Dr. KMGP Premadasa from Faculty of Engineering, Dr. UG Rajapaksha and Dr. RMNT Sirisoma from Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, Dr. KDKP Kumari, Dr. JMKB Jayasekara and Dr. DU Kottahachchi from Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, and Mr. RPS Kathriarachchi from Faculty of Computing.

ACTIVE CITIZENS PROGRAMME

Active Citizens Programme is a global programme facilitated by the British Council, and it has partners in over 77 countries. It promotes intercultural-dialogue, citizenship education, the role of youth in social leadership, and social development. General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) has also become a partner in the Active Citizens Programme since November 2020. The Active Citizens Facilitation team of KDU comprises of ten academic members representing the Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, Faculty of Computing, and Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences, and they have successfully completed the five day online training conducted by the British Council from 9th to 16th December 2020. The team will train a group of 250 cadets from the three faculties in January 2021. The Active Citizens Programme aims at building potential Active Citizens to carry out Social Action projects to help the community around them to achieve sustainability.

SOUTHERN CAMPUS INITIATES THE ARCHITECTURE RESEARCH CELL

The Department of Architecture Research Cell (DARC) was commissioned on 12th November 2020 at the Southern Campus of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. This research cell is the first established academic research unit in the Southern Campus of KDU, and it was initiated and conceptualised by Dr. Thushini Mendis, the founding Chair of DARC. This occasion was graced by the Chief Guest, Rector of Southern Campus, Brigadier EADP Edirisinghe psc. DARC intends to strengthen the research scope of students and academia, provide them with the required human and physical resources for conducting original research, promoting research culture within the Department, and collaborating with local and international research-related activities whilst focusing on the publication of original research in top-ranking indexed journals.

NEW E-BOOK COLLECTION FOR KDU LIBRARIES

Five hundred and fifty (550) e-books on the subject areas of Engineering, Law, Computing, Defence & Strategic Studies, Philosophy, English Language, Architecture, International Relations, and Quantity Surveying were purchased from Taylor & Francis e-book collection to the KDU Libraries. Enriched by these, KDU library is expanding its e-repository in order to provide better service for all its members.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR MEDLINE DATABASE

KDU Library has subscribed to the Medline database which covers the subjects of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Behavioral Sciences, Bioengineering, Environmental Health etc. At present, it is accessible through the KDU Library webpage.

KDU-CARE COLLABORATES WITH CREDENCE GENOMICS (PVT) LTD TO VALIDATE A NOVEL ASSAY TO DETECT SARS COV2 INFECTIONS

CARE Technology Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd. of KDU-CARE signed a research service agreement with Credence Genomics (Pvt.) Ltd., on 5th November 2020, to validate the performance of a novel kit (VirFast COVID) to detect SARS CoV2 infections in biological samples obtained from COVID suspected patients. The test kit has been developed in-house by Credence Genomics based on Next Generation Sequencing Technology. This assay enables the testing of over 5000 samples with suspected SARS CoV2 infections within a 24-hour time period, with a high sensitivity and specificity. Dr. A Dharshan De Silva and his team at the Biomedical Research Laboratory II of the Faculty of Medicine will evaluate the performance of this test kit in comparison to RT-qPCR technique for the detection of SARS CoV2 virus.



KDU-CARE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES THE BIOEQUIVALENCE STUDY OF CLARITHROMYCIN FOR SPMC

The Institute for Combinatorial Advanced Research and Education of KDU (KDU-CARE), successfully completed the Bioequivalence (BE) study of Clarithromycin for the State Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC).

As a requirement of the National Medicine Quality Authority (NMRA) in Sri Lanka, pharmaceuticals imported from other countries and manufactured in Sri Lanka need to be tested for their bioequivalence. Accordingly, the SPMC requested KDU to conduct bioequivalence studies for one of their drugs, Clarithromycin. The project was undertaken by a team of scientists from KDU-CARE, and the Faculty of Medicine-KDU which included Prof. Rohini Fernandopullei, Dr. Himali Jayasinghearachchi, Dr. Darshana De Silva, Dr. Janaka Munasinghe, and Dr. Prasad Premaratne. The study is a randomised, two-treatment, two-period, two-sequence, single-dose, and crossover, BE study on Clarithromycin in healthy subjects.

The final report of the study was submitted to the Chairman of SPMC, Dr. Uthpala Indrawansa and his team by the Vice Chancellor of KDU and the Director of KDU-CARE on 1st December 2020. Previously, KDU-CARE carried out a BE study for Amoxicillin drug for SPMC. This is the second BE study that has been successfully completed by KDU-CARE.



THE LAUNCH OF “LOGISTICS TIMES” MAGAZINE, 2020

The launch of the fifth edition of the “Logistics Times” magazine, issued by the Department of Management and Finance, took place on 31st December 2020 in the presence of the Vice Chancellor, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil and the members of the Advisory Committee.

Representing the Executive Committee of the Technical Sciences and Management Society (TSMS) for the year 2019/20, President Chamidu Nawaruwan and Chief Editor Natasha Jansen also attended the function. This marked yet another successful event in the TSMS and the University history, bringing glory and pride to all its students. Marching towards one’s goals despite all difficulties, these undergraduates proved their determination and capabilities once again leading KDU to distinguish itself. The “Logistics Times” magazine - 2020 mainly focuses on the impact of COVID-19 on Integrated Logistics.



CTHE PROGRAMME VIII

The certificate awarding ceremony of the Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education Programme- 2020 (CTHE Programme VIII) was held on 18th December 2020 at the Staff Development Centre-KDU.

Dr (Mrs) Amali C Dalpatadu Received the award for best performance in CTHE Programme 2019/2020.



FAREWELL EVENING - INTAKE 34 - DEPARTMENTS OF ARCHITECTURE AND QUANTITY SURVEYING

The farewell of Intake 34 of the Departments of Architecture and Quantity Surveying was held on 11th December 2020 at the Southern Campus premises. The event was made colourful with a campfire, barbeque party, and other entertaining sessions. Military and academic dignitaries, along with the students got together to witness the glamour of this event.

IMPROVEMENT OF BLOOD COLLECTION DIVISION OF TRANSFUSION MEDICINE - UHKDU



Donor Department is a new establishment of the Blood Bank, and it was created in early 2020. Provision of safe and quality blood components is the vision of the Department. Its target is to maintain an adequate number of blood and components to fulfil the patients' requirement of UHKDU, and it focuses on promoting voluntary non-remunerated blood donor motivation, education, recruitment, and retention. Social media, poster and leaflet display, announcements, and personnel communications have successfully attracted a significant number of donors. As a result, nearly 1000 blood units have been sent by UHKDU to the National Blood Transfusion Service in the year 2020. Blood Bank UHKDU invites the public to donate blood or organise blood donation campaigns, and help maintain the service at UHKDU.

NEW LAUGFS SUPERMARKET AT UHKDU

The Laugfs Super Market chain opened a new outlet at the Utility Complex, UHKDU, Werahera on 03rd June 2020.



THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF NEPHROLOGY & DIALYSIS UNIT AT UHKDU

The Nephrology & Dialysis Unit was declared open by Hon. Minister of Health, Pavithra Wanniarachchi, at UHKDU, Werahera on 03rd September 2020.



ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSITIONAL CLINIC

The Transitional Clinic for the management of Diabetes and other Endocrine disorders as a bridge between paediatric and adult endocrine services was established in UHKDU on 07th August 2020.

OPENING OF THE PRIVATE OPD AT UHKDU

Outpatient Department of the private wing at UHKDU was declared open by Executive Director Dr. Jayan Mendis together with Snr. Prof. Risvi Sheriff at the University Hospital, KDU, Werahera on 14th September 2020.

TREE PLANTING EVENT - UHKDU



The International Association of Lion's Club - District 306 C-2 of Padukka Paradise conducted a tree planting programme at the University Hospital premises of KDU, Werahera, commemorating the International Day for the preservation of the Ozone layer with the participation of the hospital staff on 16th September 2020.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY CLINIC

The Multidisciplinary Clinic for the management of Obesity was established at UHKDU on 16th September 2020 with the purpose of obtaining the services of volunteer therapists.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NUTRITION UNIT

The Nutrition Unit of UHKDU commenced on 12th November 2020 in order to cater to the nutrition needs for Medicine, Paediatrics, Surgeries, Gyn & Obs and other subspecialties including Oncology, Urology, ICU, Rehabilitation, and Gastrointestinal Surgery.

LAUNCHING TELEMEDICINE AT UHKDU

UHKDU launched telemedicine on 12th November 2020, and Hospital Information System (HIS), an element of health informatics that focuses mainly on the administrative needs of the hospital, commenced on 14th August 2020. In many implementations, HIS is a comprehensive, integrated information system designed to manage all the aspects of a hospital's operation, such as medical, administrative, financial, and the corresponding processing of services.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TO PERFORM COVID-19 PCR AT UHKDU



COVID-19 RT-PCR testing commenced at the newly established Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory at the Department of Microbiology, University Hospital KDU on 05th October 2020. Well-trained Medical laboratory scientists perform molecular testing at the laboratory under the supervision of three Consultant Microbiologists Dr. Dilini Nakkawita, Dr. Varuna Navaratne, and Dr. Nasmiya Mubarak, and two Senior Scientists Dr. Dharshan De Silva and Dr. Thamarasi Senaratne.

COVID-19 RT-PCR testing started initially on 12th April 2020 in the Biomedical Laboratory-2 at the Faculty of Medicine, KDU. Once the fully-fledged laboratory with increased testing capacity was set up, testing was shifted to UHKDU as an arm of the Diagnostics Unit in the Microbiology Department of the hospital. The new laboratory has carried out over 10,000 PCR tests at an average of ~200 tests per day.

MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 PATIENTS

Ward 07 and Ward 08 in UHKDU commenced managing COVID-19 patients from 29th October 2020 and 02nd November 2020 respectively.

THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF ARMY SEVA VANITHA CAFETERIA AT UHKDU

The Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) opened its new outlet at the Utility Complex, University Hospital, KDU, Werahara on 10th December 2020.



THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE MULTIPURPOSE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE ASSISTANTS AT UHKDU

The first stage of the training programme for the Multi-Purpose Task Force Assistants commenced on 21st December 2020 at the auditorium of UHKDU, Werahera.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GYNAECOLOGY WARD AND NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU)

UHKDU established a separate Gynaecology Ward and a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) under the guidance of Prof. Deepal Weerasekara, newly appointed Consultant Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

INTRODUCTION OF SURGICAL PACKAGES

UHKDU successfully introduced novel surgical packages for procedures conducted by Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the private wing of the hospital.

INDUCTION OF OFFICER CADETS TO KDU

Induction ceremony of 257 Officer Cadets and 10 Police Cadets of Intake 38 for the year 2020 to the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Management Social Sciences and Humanities, Faculty of Computing, and Faculty



of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was held on 11th September 2020. Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University graced the event as the Chief Guest.

APPOINTMENT OF CADET GOVERNMENT- 2020



The Cadet Government for the year 2020 was officially and ceremonially declared on 18th September at the FDSS Main Auditorium in KDU, where a total of 85 Male and Female Officer Cadets from Intake 34, 35 and 36 received appointments. The ceremony was graced by the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Major General MP Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Def & Admin) Brigadier N Hathurusinghe psc IG Hdmc.

KDU LAUNCHES COMPREHENSIVE MARITIME SECURITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) organised an event on 06th October 2020, to launch the edited book *Comprehensive Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region: Challenges and Opportunities*, that was published by KDU with Knowledge World (KW) Publishers, New Delhi. The edited book contains research on Non-Traditional Maritime Security issues such as Sri Lanka's Marine Environment, Illegal Fishing in South Asia, and Illegal Seaborne Migration from South Asia to Australia in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) within a Comprehensive Maritime Security approach focusing on the need to understand Maritime Security comprehensively and holistically. Several chapters in this edited book also emphasise links between Non-Traditional Maritime Security and National Interests and Security. The book was edited by Dr. Sithara Fernando, Department of Strategic Studies, Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, KDU, and scholars from India and New Zealand.

Admiral Professor Jayanath Kolombage, a former Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, and the Secretary to the Foreign Ministry, Sri Lanka graced the event as the Chief Guest.



FAREWELL TO DR. MM JAYAWARDENA, THE LONGEST STANDING MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

The Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities bade farewell to Dr. MM Jayawardena who retired as the longest served member of the academic staff of the Faculty. Dr. Jayawardena served KDU for more than three decades, and during his tenure, he also held the positions of Head of the Department of Social Sciences and the Dean of the Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities. Admiring his remarkable academic and administrative contribution, the faculty organised a Dhamma Sermon to invoke blessings on him at the university premises on 16th December 2020.



ACHIEVEMENTS



Mr. S. Satheesmohan and Dr. Bhagya Senaratne, lecturers of the Department of Strategic Studies as well as alumni of the U.S. State Department sponsored International Visitor Leadership programme (IVLP), were awarded the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund 2020 (AEIF) for the global grant competition for their project "Youth Leadership for Peace & Security".



Ms. Charuni Wicramarachchi, Temporary Instructor and graduate of Intake 32 Civil Engineering, was awarded an Erasmus Mundus full scholarship for a joint Master's Degree in Flood Risk Management. The prestigious MSc in Water Science and Engineering is jointly conducted by IHE Delft institute for Water Education (The Netherlands), Technical University of Dresden (Germany), Barcelona Tech (Spain), and University of Ljubljana (Slovenia).



Ms. SAIA Suraweera,

Temporary Instructor and graduate of Intake 32 Civil Engineering, was awarded the MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology: Monbukagakusho) Scholarship 2020, by the Japanese Government to pursue an MSc in Civil Engineering, at Waseda University in Japan.



Dr. Niroscha Wedasinghe,

Lecturer(Confirmed), of Faculty of Computing, Department of IT was awarded a PhD for the research titled “Bridging the Disability Divide for the Visually Impaired Community in Sri Lanka: A Framework to overcome the Issue” from General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University in 2020.

Snr. Prof. RN Pathirana, Dept. of Pharmacy, Mr RD Widanagamage (Senior Lecturer), Dept. of Medical Laboratory Sciences, D.S Bandara, S Nishadya and MG Aluthwaththa were awarded the 2nd prize for poster presentations for their paper titled “Invitro antibacterial and biofilm activity of Tribulus terrestris L. against planktonic and biofilm models of common uropathogens” at the 29th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists held on 13th and 14th August 2020.



Dr. Wasantha Premarathna,

Senior Lecturer (Gr-I) of the Department of Management and Finance, successfully completed a Ph.D. in Supply Chain Management at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.



Dr. Sanath De Silva,

Lecturer (Probationary) of the Department of Strategic Studies, earned his Ph.D. for the research titled “Nuclear Complexities in South Asia: Sri Lanka’s Security concerns under the Nuclear Shadow” from the University of Colombo.



Dr. Dumitha Govindapala

was one of the co-investigators of the research “Prospective study on the Clinical Characteristics, Viral positivity and antibody response in an Asymptomatic / Minimally Symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 positive Navy Cohort in Sri Lanka” which was awarded the best oral presentation at the KDU-IRC 2020.



Dr. Bhagya Senaratne,

Lecturer (Probationary) of the Department of Strategic Studies, earned her Ph.D. for the research titled “An Analysis of Sri Lanka-China Bilateral Relations from 1994 to 2015” from the University of Colombo.



Dr. Priyamali Jayasekara

has been awarded the NRC grant CVD20-03 for the research “Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among healthcare workers on treating suspected / PCR positive COVID-19 patients in Sri Lanka”.



Ms. NA Sanjeevani

received a fellowship to follow a PhD in Saitama Medical University, Japan- 2020-2021

Dr. Priyamali Jayasekara, Senior Lecturer in Medicine, has won the Best Clinical Audit Award for the audit “A Clinical Audit on recognition and management of strokes in a tertiary care hospital of Sri Lanka” at the CCP Annual Conference 2020.

Dr. Priyamali Jayasekara has been awarded the Ceylon College of Physicians Research Grant-2020 for the research titled “Assess the incidence, outcome, disease pattern, complications of dengue fever and relationship to Dengue haemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome of the symptoms, signs and results of investigations in University Hospital KDU (UHKDU)”.

WDPA Jeewananda

won the Best Oral Presentation award for the Investigation of in-vitro Antiurolithiatic Activity of *Passiflora foetida* and *Stachytarpheta indica* on Experimentally Prepared Calcium Oxalate Crystals at the 13th International Research Conference, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, 16th October 2020.



Dr. Hiruni Jayasena,

Lecturer in Medicine, has passed the MD Part II (Medicine). She is currently a specialised registrar in gastroenterology at the Colombo North Teaching Hospital.



First KDU alumnus to qualify as Doctor of Medicine (MD)

Captain (Dr.) Madhura De Alwis achieved the significant landmark of being the first ever medical student of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University to be qualified as Doctor of Medicine (MD).

Captain (Dr.) De Alwis joined General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University in the year 2009 as an Officer Cadet of Intake 27. He was an outstanding Officer Cadet who balanced military training with education. He got through the 2nd MBBS examination with a Second Class Upper Division (Distinction for Physiology), 3rd MBBS Examination with a Second Class Upper Division (Distinctions for Microbiology and Pharmacology) and the Final MBBS Examination with distinctions for all five subjects, i.e., Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Gynaecology and Obstetrics and Psychiatry. He was also the gold medalist for Medicine and Pediatrics.

Capt. (Dr.) De Alwis completed his internship at the Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa. He was the Senior House Officer in a Medical Unit at the Army Hospital, Colombo, and Medical Registrar for two and half years at the National Hospital Colombo.



Intake 36 Social Sciences undergraduate wins a Global Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship to the USA

Navya Wijewickrama, a fee-levying student of Intake 36, has been selected for the Global Undergraduate Exchange scholarship as a representative from Sri Lanka, in order to follow a semester of course work at a university in the United States. The programme is funded by the US Department of State and administered by the US Embassy in Sri Lanka together with World Learning.



Double Scholarship to Canada for Social Sciences graduate NADM Nishshanka Appuhamy

Day scholar N.A.D.M Nishshanka Appuhamy, who completed the BSc in Social Sciences degree with a First Class, was selected for a Master's Degree programme in Social Studies at Trinity Western University in Canada. Based on his academic merits, he was awarded two scholarships by this university, namely, Provost's Scholarship and the Journey Forward Grant. He was also awarded the Best Overall Performance in Academic Studies in the Social Sciences Degree Programme at the KDU General Convocation in 2018.

Achievements of Law students at international competitions

Undergraduates of the Faculty of Law participated in LUMS Moot Court competition held at Lahore, Pakistan and became Quarter Finalists. They also participated in the 05th NR Madhava Menon SAARC Law students Moot Court Competition which was held at Greater Noida, New Delhi, India. The participants of the Victors Moot Competition were ranked 03rd from the Respondent's Memorial.

PROMOTIONS



Dr. AH Lakmal
Senior Lecturer
(Grade II)
(Department of Civil Engineering) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade I with effect from 01st June 2018.



Ms. B. D. K. Anandawansa
(Department of Languages) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Ms. N.D. Ranasinghe
(Department of Languages) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Ms. DDL Willarachchi
(Department of Languages) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Mr. Lahiru Gunathilaka
(Department of Management and Finance) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Ms. AA Edirisinghe
(Faculty of Law) has been confirmed in the post of Lecturer and promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade II) with effect from 02nd February 2020.



Ms. LM De Silva
(Faculty of Law) has been confirmed in the post of Lecturer and promoted to Senior Lecturer Gr II with effect from 05th May 2020.



Ms. NKK Mudalige
(Faculty of Law) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II) with effect from 05th May 2020.



Dr. MPKW Abhayasinghe
(Department of Nursing & Midwifery) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Dr. WM Ediriarachchi
(Department of Radiography & Radiotherapy) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Ms. NA Sanjeevani
(Department of Pharmacy) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Dr. (Mrs.) Lakshika Liyanage
(Department of Social Sciences) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade 1) with effect from 20th May 2019.



Dr. ADAI Gunasekara
(Department of Computer Science) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Mrs. WPJ Premaratne
(Department of Computer Science) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).



Mrs. SCM De Silva Sirisuriya
(Department of Computer Science) has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer (Grade II).

Captain (Quartermaster) BRI Bibulewela SLEME (UHKDU) has been promoted to the rank of Temporary Major with effect from 09th September 2020.

Captain (Quartermaster) HUSK Herath SLAOC (UHKDU) has been promoted to the rank of Temporary Major with effect from 09th September 2020.

Lt NRE 2876 ALA Dissanayake (UHKDU) has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander with effect from 09th October 2020.

03123 Flt Lt SWDR Sirimanna (UHKDU) has been promoted to the rank of Squadron Leader with effect from 27th November 2020.

03125 Flt Lt ADYP Periyapperuma (UHKDU) has been promoted to the rank of Squadron Leader with effect from 27th November 2020.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Col. (Dr.) A Balasuriya has been appointed as Associate Professor of Public Health (on merit) at the Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, KDU, with effect from 23rd March 2017.



Prof. Charitha Goonasekara from the Faculty of Medicine was appointed as the Acting Director of the Institute for Combinatorial Advanced Research and Education (KDU-CARE) with effect from 13th of March 2020



Mrs. Nalinika Rajapakse, Senior Lecturer (Grade II) of the Department of Languages, assumed duties as the Head of the Department on 22nd April 2020.



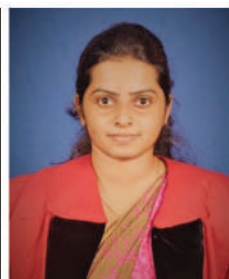
Lt Col. TS Hettiarachchi assumed duties as the Media Officer of KDU on 03rd June 2020.



Dr. GGDI Rodrigo has been appointed as Professor of Paediatrics at the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, KDU, with effect from 19th June 2020.



Dr. PLN Fernando was appointed as Lecturer on assignment basis in the Department of Civil Engineering from July 2020.



Eng. (Ms.) MLC Surangi was appointed as Lecturer on assignment basis in the Department of Civil Engineering from July 2020.



Dr. Namali Sirisoma Department of Management and Finance has been appointed as the Director of Career Guidance Unit, KDU with effect from 12th September 2020.



Mr. Kithsiri Amaratunga, Senior Lecturer (Grade I) of the Department of Languages, assumed duties as the Dean of the Faculty on 14th September 2020.



Mr. Nuwan Herath, Senior Lecturer (Grade II) of the Department of Social Sciences, assumed duties as the Head of the Department on 14th September 2020.



Dr. (Mrs.) Lakshika Liyanage, Senior Lecturer (Grade I), of the Department of Social Sciences was appointed as the first Director of the KDU Centre for Gender Equity and Equality (CGEE) which was established in September 2020.



LCdr (C) DAN Danansuriya was appointed as the Squadron Commander of Intake 37 at FDSS on 01st October 2020.



Ms. UDSS Gunasinghe was appointed as a Senior Assistant Registrar (on contract) w.e.f. 28th October 2020



Dr. Harinda Vidanage, Senior Lecturer (Grade I) of the Department of Strategic Studies, assumed duties as the Head of the Department on 10th November 2020.



Brigadier W Chandrasiri RSP USP psc assumed duties as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence and Administration) on 17th November 2020.



Colonel HMGE Herath RSP USP psc assumed duties as the Dean of Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies of KDU on 23rd November 2020.



Ms. Wasana Sudusinghe
assumed duties at KDU as a Tutor in the Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities on 24th of November 2020.



Ms. Sinduja Umandi W. Jayaratne
assumed duties as Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Strategic Studies on 2nd December 2020.



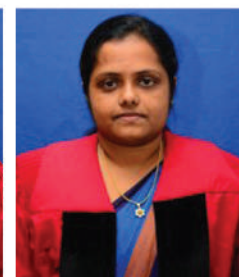
Lt Col. MTC De Silva
assumed duties as the Director of Centre for IT Support and Development Services of KDU on 04th December 2020.



Dr. RP Kumanyake, Senior Lecturer (Grade I) was appointed as the Vice President, Section C (Engineering, Architecture and Surveying), Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) for 2021.



Mrs. UDH Kanchna, Senior Assistant Librarian – Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Library, has been appointed as Assistant Secretary of the University Librarians Association, Sri Lanka for year 2020/2021.



Mrs. MP Rajapaksha, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine Library, and **Mrs. UDH Kanchna**, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Library have been appointed as External Mentors, Department of Library & Information Sciences, University of Kelaniya.



Dr. Namal Wijesinghe has been appointed as Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine Faculty of Medicine, KDU from 30th November 2020.



Lt Col. TBMR Kandekumbura RSP USP assumed duties as the Deputy Dean of Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies of KDU on 09th December 2020.



Dr. A.H. Lakmal assumed duties as the new Dean of Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences on 15th December 2020



Dr. Dumitha Govindapala has been appointed as a member of the guideline development committee for the management of COVID-19 patients in Sri Lanka by the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.



Dr. Dumitha Govindapala, Senior Lecturer in Medicine, has been re-appointed as Head- Medicine for year 2021.

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND GUEST LECTURES

FOE HOLDS A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS TO PREPARE THE FACULTY FOR THE NEW IESL RECOGNITION MANUAL



The Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) of the Faculty of Engineering, chaired by Dr. NK Gunasekara, under the auspices of the Dean, Capt. SU Dampage held a series of workshops on 23rd July, 12th August and 3rd September 2020, to prepare the Faculty for the new IESL Recognition Manual. As per the guidelines given in the IESL Recognition Manual, a novel curriculum mapping procedure was drafted by the CDC, and it was reviewed by an expert panel consisting of Prof. JR Lucas, Dr. WCDK Fernando, Dr. TMWRMB Samarakoon, and Dr. LIN de Silva who is an expert in Curriculum Development in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa. The developed mapping procedure was then disseminated to the Faculty through workshops. Dr. NK Gunasekara, Dr. RP Kumanayake, Dr. TWKIM Dias, and Mr. Rangajeewa Samarathunge were the key resource persons for the knowledge dissemination process in the workshops. All the CDC members including the convener Ms. KMEM Karunawardhana took commendable effort to ensure the success of the workshops.

CURRICULUM REVISION WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES

The Department of Languages organised a two-day curriculum revision workshop on 30th and 31st July 2020 at KDU Clubhouse, as part of its endeavor to constantly increase the quality of the programmes it offers. The resource person of the workshop was Dr. Bimali Indrathne from the University of York, UK. English lecturers from the Department including the lecturers from the KDU Southern Campus, the panel of visiting staff, and lecturers from affiliated military academies were present. The event was a great platform for all the academics to learn, share knowledge, and launch a collaborative process of revising the curricula to be on par with modern teaching and learning trends of English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and English for Specific Purposes (ESP).



A CELEBRATION OF LOCAL CLASSICAL LITERATURE AT SOUTHERN CAMPUS

The Martin Wickramasinghe Foundation staged a workshop on the precious works of local vernacular literature authored by the iconic writer, Martin Wickramasinghe, at Southern Campus, KDU on 14th and 15th of August 2020. The programme included a two-day workshop, book fair, and a photography exhibition honouring the works of literature composed by Martin Wickramasinghe. The session also enlightened the audience on the classical movies based on his writings; Kaliyugaya and Viragaya. Mr. Dayapala Jayaneththi, the Administrative Secretary of the foundation, conducted the guest lecture of the session.



AN INSPIRATIONAL GUEST LECTURE BY REAR ADMIRAL SISIRA JAYAKODY

Rear Admiral Sisira Jayakody of Sri Lanka Navy delivered a resourceful guest lecture on the theme “Professional Development in the Field of Military and Academic achievements” on 27th August 2020 at the KDU premises. The guest lecture provided an inspirational insight into achieving goals even under challenging situations in complex organisational cultures. Being a KDU alumnus, Rear Admiral Sisira Jayakody counts 35 years of impeccable service for the motherland, and this event coincided as his final official event preceding his retirement. A large gathering of officer cadets, day scholars, military officers and academia were present at the occasion.



WORKSHOP ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES



The Staff Development Centre, KDU conducted a workshop on Government Procurement Procedures on 17th September 2020 for academic and administrative staff of the University.

MATH QUIZ WIZARD: THE MARVELS OF MATHEMATICS EVINCED AT THE CAMPUS

An Analytical Math Skills Development Workshop titled ‘Math Quiz Wizard’ was successfully held with the zealous participation of the military officers, lecturers, and non-academic staff of the Southern Campus on 24th September 2020. Ms. Uma Meththananda, Lecturer in Mathematics, attached to the Department of Spatial Sciences moderated the event which turned out to be a trailblazing event promoting cohesive affiliation amongst the staff members from diverse backgrounds.



TECH-TALK



A Tech – Talk organised by the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Computing was conducted on 25th of September at the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The session was conducted for the Intake 35 IT and IS students. The objective of the session was to inform the undergraduates about the current practices of the software industry.

WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED BY UHKDU

University Hospital KDU organised a four-day workshop, which was held from 24th to 27th November at IDH, for nursing officers on how to manage COVID-19 patients. Further, a workshop on Cardiology was conducted at UHKDU on 20th October 2020.

TRAINING SESSION ON TURNITIN PLAGIARISM CHECKER SOFTWARE

An online training session on Turnitin Plagiarism Checker Software, was organised by the KDU Library on 26th November 2020 for academic staff members. The resource person was Mr. Varun Piplani.

A WEBINAR ON INNOVATIVE RESEARCH MINDSET

A guest lecture was organised by the Engineering Faculty Research Cell on 17th December 2020 on the topic “Innovative Research Mindset”. The resource person was Dr. Pujitha De Silva, Director of the Center of Biomedical Research and Innovation at the University of Moratuwa, who is also a Certified Professional Coach in research. The main objective of the session was to provide motivation to the final year students of the Engineering Faculty as they embark on their final year research project at a juncture where many limitations are imposed due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The session was delivered online via Zoom, and it was well-received by both students and academic staff of the Faculty. An interactive discussion followed the lecture where students received the opportunity of clearing certain doubts and concerns they had faced during the initial stage of their research. A total of 160 participants joined the two-hour session.

DSS POLICY RESEARCH WORKSHOP

The Department of Strategic Studies commenced a series of Policy Research Workshops for the advancement of policy research among the academics of the Faculty of Defence & Strategic Studies. The first Policy Research Workshop themed ‘Sri Lanka’s Foreign Policy’ was held recently. The workshop was conducted by former Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka and former Governor of the Northern Province—Ambassador HMGs Palihakkara, who highlighted the importance of policy research in addressing social problems, in order for policymakers to make accurate decisions. Speaking further, Ambassador Palihakkara elaborated on possible areas for policy research based on Sri Lanka’s Foreign Policy, and recommended that academics in the field of International Relations and Strategic Studies conduct valuable academic research with concrete policy outcomes.

APCSS STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

The first ‘Strategic Dialogue’ was held in October 2020 with Daniel K. Inouye of the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) and a delegation from General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU). The KDU delegation was represented by the members of the Department of Strategic Studies (DSS), and the dialogue was held under the Chatham House Rules. The Strategic Dialogue focused on contemporary security and strategic issues experienced by both countries. The two parties also agreed to conduct more discussions of this nature in the near future.

KDU-SIIS WEB DIALOGUE

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) and the Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS) held a preliminary web dialogue in December 2020. Whilst discussing possible areas for interaction in the future, the representatives of KDU and SIIS shared their perspectives on a variety of topics such as Sri Lanka-China Relations, China’s Policy in the Indian Ocean, and regional security. The ensuing discussion was fruitful and marked a milestone in scholarly discussions between Sri Lanka and China. KDU was represented by Vice Chancellor, KDU—Major General Milinda Peiris; Senior Professor in International Relations—Professor Amal Jayawardane; Dean, Faculty of Defence & Strategic Studies (FDSS)—Colonel Enoj Herath; Senior Lecturer and Head of Department, Department of Strategic Studies—Dr. Harinda Vidanage; and Lecturer, Department of Strategic Studies—Dr. Bhagya Senaratne.

CULTURAL EVENTS

PADURA 2020



'Padura', the annual Classical Music Program of the Southern Campus was held on 22nd October 2020 at the University Gymnasium under the theme "Melody of youthfulness". The event was organised by the undergraduates of Intake 37 of the Department of IT, Faculty of Computing along with the students of the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies. Brigadier Prasad Edirisinghe psc, Rector, Southern campus graced the event as the Chief Guest, and the Faculty Deans along with other dignitaries were also present at the event. Mr. Mahinda Prasad Masimbula, a renowned local poet presented the event. This event provided a magnificent platform for the undergraduates to showcase and hone their talents in performing arts.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

OFFICER CADETS' ENDURANCE MARCH – 2020

Officer Cadets of Intake 32, 34, 35, 36, and 37 successfully completed the Endurance March (10 km) on 26th September 2020. There were 606 participants in the event including 33 Officer Instructors, 80 Other Rank Instructors and 493 Officer Cadets. The endurance march is a compulsory event of the officer cadets' training programme since it develops their endurance to uphold future responsibilities with confidence. It also tests the strength, courage, and perseverance which are essential qualities for every military officer.

Parallel to the Endurance March held in Ratmalana, KDU Southern Campus also held the Campus March for 2020 on 19th September in Sooriyawewa with the participation of a large number of students and staff.



CODE WITH WIE – LET'S RISE TOGETHER

Code with WIE- Let's Rise Together was organised by the IEEE WIE Sri Lanka Section Affinity Group in collaboration with IEEE HAC & SIGHT. The finals of the "Code with WIE- Let's Rise Together" were held on 28th June 2020, and the 1st place was won by Team Stealth. The Team Stealth was represented by Rashmi Ranasinghe, Randi Wakkumbura, Lasitha Atapattu and Sanara Premaratne, Intake 34 undergraduates of the Faculty of Computing, KDU.

IEEE INNOVATION NATION SRI LANKA PROBLEM REPOSITORY COMPETITION 2020

IEEE Innovation Nation Sri Lanka organised its first ever problem repository competition on 28th June 2020 where they gathered problems and selected the best problem idea. Highlighting the University name, Manoshi Ramanayake and Viduranga Bandaranayake, two students representing the Faculty of Computing, KDU, won places at the competition.

TADHACK SRI LANKA 2020

TADHack Sri Lanka is part of Asia Hub and TADHack Global which ran across more than 10 cities around the world. TADHack Sri Lanka 2020 was held on 10th and 11th October 2020, and it was organised by hSenid Mobile and conducted online because of the prevailing situation. KDU secured two places in the TADHack Sri Lanka 2020 as Winner and 2nd Runners-up for the teams SKAT and DeathCompany from IEEE Student Branch of KDU.

RUNNERS – UP ONE HACK-A-THON

One Hack-a-thon is an initiative designed to inspire developers, start-ups, technology students, management students, and technology experts to collaborate and build technologies that will help battle global pandemics of the future. The objectives of the event were to ideate solutions that are implementable to deal with the challenges posed by COVID-19, and to create scalable solutions to minimise the effect of future pandemics.

With the participation of over 500 teams from 20 countries around the world, Team DeathCompany from KDU was able to mark their achievement as the Runner Up of Sri Lanka after being finalists of a global competition where they competed neck and neck with top finalists from other countries. Team DeathCompany consist of Vidura Dhananjaya (Lead), Kaveen Abeyrathna, Kusal Siriwardhana and Charith Bimsara, 3rd year undergraduates from the Faculty of Computing, KDU. They developed a contact tracing application to cater in pandemic situations as well as in post pandemic contexts with the ability of covering all the range of mobile phones (smartphones + feature phones).

FACULTY OF COMPUTING – STUDENT SYMPOSIUM 2020

For the first time in KDU history, the Faculty of Computing held an online Student Symposium on 17th December 2020. Around 50 students presented their research findings on five disciplines which included Information Technology, Information Systems, Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Software Engineering. The Keynote speakers of the Symposium were Professor Asoka S Karunananda, University of Moratuwa, and Professor Saman Muthukumarana, University of Manitoba, Canada.

8TH INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE KDU TOASTMASTERS CLUB

The 8th Installation Ceremony of the KDU Toastmasters Club was conducted on 21st September 2020 at the Main Auditorium in the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The President and the Executive Committee for the year 2020/21 were installed at this ceremony. This colourful ceremony was graced by the Chief Guest, Brigadier Nanda Hathurusinghe psc IG Hdmc, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence and Administration) of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. The Guest of Honour was Distinguished Toastmaster Sudash Liyanage – the Regional Advisor for Region 13, and the Keynote Speaker was Mr. Dulinda Perera – the CEO of IKON and IKON Impressions.



FOREIGN CADETS' EXCURSION – 2020

The Foreign Officer Cadets of KDU participated in an excursion from 25th September to 27th September 2020. It was organised by the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor, Major General Milinda Peiris. The excursion was organised for the Foreign Officer Cadets to learn and enjoy the cultural heritage of Sri Lanka.

Twenty three male and female Foreign Officer Cadets of Intake 34, 35, 36 and 37 attended the excursion. During the tour, they visited Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, and Diyathalawa. They also visited SLMA where they met the Sri Lanka Army Officer Cadets, and spent a glamorous evening at the Officer Cadets' Mess. They also visited famous tourist destinations in Ella, Suriyawawa, and Koggala.



THE PIPPING CEREMONY OF MBBS OFFICER CADETS OF INTAKE 32

The Pipping Ceremony of MBBS Officer Cadets of Intake 32 was held on 09th October 2020 at the Indoor Stadium of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. 32 MBBS Officer Cadets were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in Sri Lanka Army and 04 MBBS Officer Cadets were commissioned as Acting Sub Lieutenants in Sri Lanka Navy. The Vice Chancellor of KDU, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



AWARDING CEREMONY FOR THE BEST SYNDICATE 2020

The Awarding Ceremony for the Best Syndicate Presentations for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 was held on 15th December 2020. The function was graced by Brigadier W Chandrasiri RSP USP psc, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence and Administration) as the Chief Guest, Colonel HMGE Herath RSP USP psc, the Dean Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, and other Directing Staff of FDSS.

The syndicate presentations were held to enhance the communication skills, research abilities and presentation skills of the Officer Cadets in order to groom them as talented and capable officers in the future.

Best syndicate for the year 2018 – Intake 34

“The environmental impacts of building condominiums in Colombo district”.

Best syndicate for the year 2019 – Intake 35

“Accelerated development of technology and impact on Sri Lankan Culture”.

Best syndicate for the year 2020 – Intake 36

“Customer Tendency towards online grocery shopping during lockdown”.



MESS NIGHT OF INTAKE XXXVI

The Mess Night of Intake 36 was conducted ceremonially on 16th December 2020, at the Officer Cadets’ Mess of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. This event was graced by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil as the Chief Guest. This was an opportunity for the Officer Cadets who aspire to be future military leaders, to learn about traditional military customs and values. The Vice Chancellor in his address stressed upon the importance of upholding military customs, the history of traditional dinner nights, the current progress of the University and its future prospects. The event marked the completion of the academic tenure of the Officer Cadets of Intake 36 who will be leaving for their respective service military academies in January 2021.



FOREIGN OFFICER CADETS' TOUR TO LAYA LEISURE 2020



The Foreign Officer Cadets of KDU participated in an adventurous tour to Laya Leisure Kukuleganga on 20th December 2020. The tour was organised by the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, Major General Milinda Peiris. This provided an opportunity for the Foreign Officer Cadets to enjoy and relax during the year-end vacation at a time when the Covid 19 pandemic has restricted their ability to spend the vacation outside the University premises.

Fifteen male and two female Foreign Officer Cadets of Intake 34, 35, 36 and 37 participated in the tour. They enjoyed bike riding, archery, air rifle shooting, ziplining and billiard, and an entertaining evening with a Sunday BBQ night which was followed by their native dancing and music.

CHRISTMAS DINNER NIGHT 2020

The Christmas Dinner Night was organised by the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies on 25th December 2020 at the KDU swimming pool premises with the participation of foreign officers, officer cadets, and day scholars. This was mainly organised for the foreign students to entertain and interact with students of other countries during the year end vacation.

The function comprised with music and rhythmic dances by the Sri Lanka Army dancing troupe, and the Foreign Officer Cadets and Foreign Day Scholars added colour to the event by singing Sinhala and their native songs. The Vice Chancellor Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP USP VSV ndc psc graced the evening as the Chief Guest, and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence & Administration), Dean and all Officers of Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, and Director of International Relations were present on this occasion.



FORMATION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL ROVER CREW OF THE SRI LANKA SCOUT ASSOCIATION AT KDU TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY YEAR OF ROVER SCOUTING IN SRI LANKA

27th August 2020 was a special day for the Sri Lankan Scout Association as well as KDU since the first National Rover Scout Crew of Sri Lanka was formed with 100 selected Officer Cadets and Day Scholars of KDU including 24 President Scouts to commemorate the centenary year of the Sri Lanka Rover Scouting at the Inauguration Ceremony of National Rovers held at KDU. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Major General Milinda Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil the Chief Commissioner of Sri Lanka Scout Association and the Vice Chancellor of KDU as the Chief Guest. The event was held at the scenic KDU poolside where over hundred and twenty undergraduates witnessed the event.

Rover scouting is a programme intended for adult men and women which guides them to become better citizens. The history of Sri Lanka Rover Scouting dates back to 1920, and this year, Rover Scouting of Sri Lanka celebrates its centenary. Rovering provides great opportunities for adventure, exploration and service full of satisfaction, and there are many opportunities to socialise and meet new people. This endeavour will give an opportunity for KDU undergraduates to take part in national and international Scouts Moots, youth forums and World Jamborees as international representatives, and develop their social and leadership skills.



SPORTS

PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY OF THE ANNUAL SPORTS MEET – 2020

The Prize Giving Ceremony of the Annual Sports Meet of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was ceremonially held on 14th September 2020 at the Basketball Court, KDU. Around 3000 military and civilian undergraduates divided into 06 squadrons named Gemunu, Gajaba, Perakum, Vijayaba, Mahasen and Walagamba competed in thirty-five different track and field events in this sports meet held on 13th and 14th March 2020 at the Sugathadasa Stadium. However, the prize giving could not be conducted in March due to the restrictions imposed in the face of COVID 19. Therefore, the closing ceremony of the Sports Meet was held on 14th September 2020, and Major General MP Peiris, the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. A large gathering of senior officer, academic staff and students was present on this occasion.

New KDU records established in the Annual Sports Meet – 2020:

5663 J/O/C HNK Caldera Triple Jump (Men) 14.51m Parakum Squadron.

5891 J/L/O/C TKAGW Chathurangi Long Jump (Women) 5.44m Vijayaba Squadron.

5980 J/L/O/C PD Darmasiri 3000m (Women) 00.12.46.9 Sec Gemunu Squadron.

5680 J/L/O/C PD Darmasiri 1500m (Women) 00.00.05.40.00 Sec Gemunu Squadron

ENG/18//0066 ENRDZ Siriwardana 100m (Women) 00.00.12.9 Sec Gemunu Squadron

LM/18/0066 ENRDZ Siriwardana 200m (Women) 00.00.27.01 Sec Gajaba Squadron

ENG/18/0101 MTTT Thanthirimalage 100m Hurdle (Women) 00.00.18.03 Sec Gemunu Squadron.

Out of the 06 Squadrons, Gajaba Squadron emerged the champions of the Annual Sports Meet – 2020 scoring 162 points. Mahasen squadron, scoring 155 points, and Vijayaba Squadron, scoring 149 points, became the 1st and the 2nd runners up respectively. 5663 J/O/C HNK Caldera and 5891 J/L/O/C TKAGW Chathurangi were adjudged the best male and female athletes of 2020.



INTER-SQUADRON BADMINTON TOURNAMENT - 2020

Inter-Squadron Badminton Tournament 2020 organised by the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, Southern Campus, KDU took place on 08th October 2020 at the University gymnasium. The Rector-Southern Campus graced this occasion as the Chief Guest along with the campus military officers, academia and administrative staff. Intake 36 clinched the overall championship while Intake 34 emerged as the overall runners-up.



ANNUAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT -2020



The Inter-Squadron Volleyball Tournament of the year 2020, organised by the Faculty of Defense and Strategic Studies, Southern Campus, KDU kicked off on 12th October 2020 at the Volleyball Court of Southern Campus. The Senior Deputy Dean FDSS, Southern Campus participated as the Chief Guest of the event. Intake 33 Architecture Team won the Men's title while the Women's title was secured by Intake 36 Architecture Team. Military officers, academia, Officer Cadets, Day Scholars and non-academic staff witnessed the event.

ELLE TOURNAMENT - 2020



Elle Tournament -2020 of Southern Campus, KDU was held on 26th and 27th October 2020. Students of Intake 36, Surveying Sciences organised the event, and the Rector- Southern Campus graced the event as the Chief Guest, along with the spectators which comprised campus staff and undergraduates.



RECTOR'S CHALLENGE TROPHY – 2020

The annual Inter-Squadron football championship extravaganza organised by the Department of Quantity Surveying of KDU Southern Campus, 'Rector's Challenge Trophy – 2020,' was held on 28th October 2020 at the campus grounds. Brigadier EADP Edirisinghe psc, the Rector of KDU Southern Campus, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, and the event saw the eager participation of the academic and administrative staff accompanied by all the undergraduates. Overpowering all the competitors, Intake 36 clinched the trophy whilst Intake 34 had to be contented with the Runners-Up title. The best goalkeeper award was bagged by HBUN Dissanayake, and RKAPG Dissanayaka (Intake 36 QS) was crowned as the best player. The day's show was made colourful with the entertainment sessions organised by the undergraduates.



