

# PATHIVU

NEWSLETTER

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## FACULTY OF ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA

### Faculty of Arts initiated Collaborations with Multilateral Agencies towards a Wider Academic Spectrum

Signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) are the necessary activities of the academic processes of higher education institutions (HEI). MoUs and MoAs support enriching the capacity of research and development of a HEI in various ways. New trends in higher education emphasise signing the MoUs for diversifying academic establishment, conducting innovative research, initiating beneficial community outreach programmes and well-furnished infrastructure facilities.

The timely need for the MoUs and MoAs completely aware by the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna and FoA accelerated the collaborations with different agencies and stakeholders at different levels. eral Agencies

Department	Area of Collaboration	Collaborative Agencies	Date of MoUs / MoAs Signed
Media Studies	Promoting joint education and advocacy programmes on alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention and creating awareness	Alcohol and Drug Information Center (ADIC)	25.05.2022
Media Studies	A study on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) education in Sri Lanka	Centre for Media and Information Literacy (CMIL)	19.07.2022
Fine Arts	Organizing avenues for artistic exchanges and collaborations	Goethe-Institute, Sri Lanka	29.09.2022
Fine Arts	Academic collaboration in teaching, research and internship	Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Sri Lanka	29.09.2022
Philosophy	Extending students' services to the wider community, especially towards capacity building of school students and for mentoring activities	US Agency for International Development - SCORE Project	11.10.2022
Law	Organizing the Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition in Tamil Language	International Committee of the Red Cross	28.11.2022
Law	Developing and implementing IFES' "She Leads" women leadership program for Law students. Developing and implementing IFES' Democracy: From Theory to Practice program for Law students.	International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)	10.10.2022

## Editorial – Pathivu

Newsletter of the Faculty of Arts

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(Deputy Registrar, Faculty of Arts)

## Maanudam Research Conference

The 1st Maanudam Research Conference (MRC) organized under the sphere of the Jaffna University International Research Conference (JUICE) was held on the 29th

and 30th of July 2022. The Conference was hosted by the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna. To mark the centenary anniversary of the founding of Humanities and Social Sciences education in Sri Lanka, “One Hundred Years of Humanities and Social Sciences Education: Trajectories, Continuities, and Discontinuities” was chosen as the Conference theme.

The Conference Committee came up with the idea of inviting papers from leading scholars in Sri Lanka whose research focuses on the social, economic, ideological and institutional dimensions of Humanities and Social Sciences education in the country. A total of 33 papers were presented at the Conference. Prof. Sujith Sivasudaram of University of Cambridge, UK and Dr. K.Indrapala, the first Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Jaffna, delivered the Keynote addresses.



## Undergraduate Research Symposium in Arts (URSA 2022)

The 2ndnd Undergraduate Research Symposium in Arts was held on the 10th of November 2022 at the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna. The theme of the Symposium was 'Restoring Normalcy and Building Resilience amidst a Pandemic and an Economic Crisis'

The Chair of the symposium Prof. K. Suthakar, the Dean, Faculty of Arts, presented the theme and the objectives of the conference. Next, the Chief Guest Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah, the Vice Chancellor of the University, congratulated the Organizers and appreciated the initiative. . The proceedings of the symposium were launched by the Dean and the editors Mr. K. L. Ramanan and Mr. S. Sivakanthan. A total of 125 abstracts were published in a conference volume. One hundred and nine undergraduates presented their research in person, while 09 presentations were done virtually.



## அனைத்துலகத் தமிழியல் ஆய்வு மாநாடு 2023

யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழக சர்வதேச ஆய்வரங்கின் பகுதியாகக் கலைப்பீடத்தின் தமிழ்த்துறையின் சார்பில் மூன்றாவது அனைத்துலகத் தமிழியல் ஆய்வு மாநாடு 'ஈழத்து தமிழியல் மரபும் மாற்றமும்: இருபதாம் நூற்றாண்டிற்கு முற்பட்டது' எனும் தொனிப்பொருளில் கந்தையா கார்த்திகேசன் அறக்கொடை நிதியத்தின் அனுசரணையில் ஆவணி மாதம் மூன்றாம் திகதி கைலாசபதி கலையரங்கில் நடைபெற்றது. மாநாட்டின் தொடக்க நிகழ்வில் பல்கலைக்கழகத் துணைவேந்தர் பேராசிரியர் சி.சிறிசற்குணராசா மற்றும் கலைப்பீடாதிபதி பேராசிரியர் க.சுதாகர் ஆகியோர் சிறப்புரையாற்றினர்.

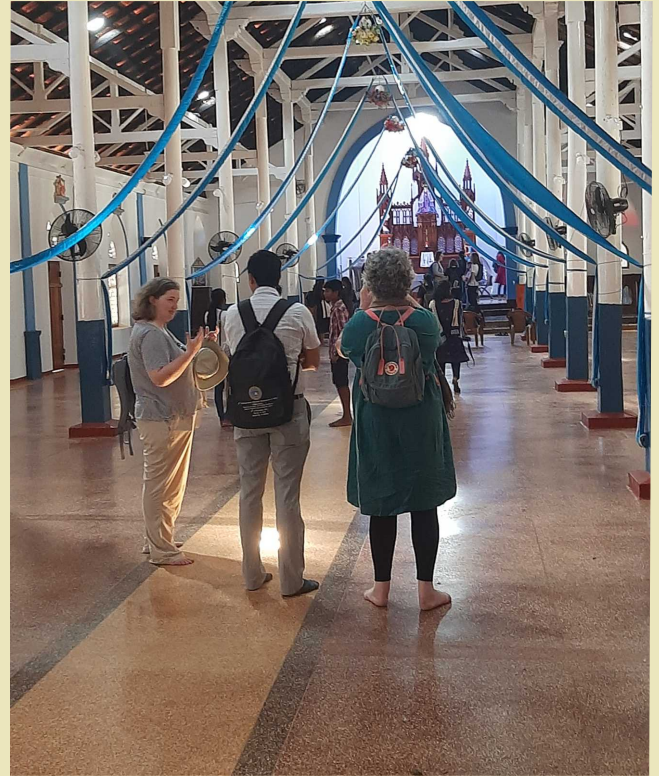
நிகழ்வில் ஆய்வுக் கட்டுரைகளின் தொகுப்பும் குமாரசுவாமிப் புலவரின் தமிழ்ப் புலவர் சரித்திரம் எனும் நூலும் கடந்த ஆண்டில் பேராசிரியர் அ.சண்முகதாஸ் அவர்களால் நிகழ்த்தப்பட்ட 'வரலாற்றில் முன்னேற்றம்' எனும் தலைப்பிலான திறப்புரையும் வெளியிட்டு வைக்கப்பட்டன. தொடர்ந்து நிகழ்வின் சிறப்பு அம்சமாக நான்கு பெண் புலமையாளர்கள் கௌரவிக்கப்பட்டனர்.

நான்கு அம்சங்களாக நடைபெற்ற ஆய்வரங்கில் முப்பத்தேழு ஆய்வாளர்கள் கலந்துகொண்டு தமது ஆய்வுக்கட்டுரைகளை அளிக்கை செய்தனர்.



**Research Collaboration among the Universities of Leicester, Exeter and Jaffna**

As part of the ongoing community archeology and heritage reseach collobrations among the University of Leicester, UK, University of Exeter, UK, and the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna, two workshops and field visits were held in Jaffna from the 18th to the 22nd of April and later from the 13th to 15th of December 2022 in Jaffna. Prof. Ruth Young, Department of Archaeology, University of Leicester, and Dr. Gillian Juleff, Senior Lecturer in Archeology, University of Exeter, jointly led the reseach activities. Dr. Adrian Oyaneder, Digital Learning Developer, University of Exeter, Emma Dwyer from the Museum of London Archaeology, John P Cooper, Associate Professor in Maritime Archaeology and Arabic at the University of Exeter and Deborah McFarlane, Lecturer in Politics and International Relations at the University of Exeter, collaborated with nearly 15 participants from Jaffna. Academics and students from the disciplines of Archaeology, History, Art History, Economics, Sociology, English Literature, Drama & Theater Arts and Geography were the participants from the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna. In addition, an architect, visual artists and social workers from Jaffna contributed to the research. Dr. T. Sanathanan from Department of Fine Arts coordiated the research project.



**36<sup>th</sup> General Convocation 2022 of the University of Jaffna**

The 36th General Convocation of the University of Jaffna was held on the 6th, 7th & 8th of October 2022 at the Indoor Stadium, University of Jaffna for the conferment of Undergraduate and Postgraduates Degrees of the University of Jaffna.

The Chancellor Most Reverend Professor Sivasubramaniam Pathmanathan, the Vice Chancellor Professor Sivakolundu Srisatkunarah, Deans of the Faculties, the Heads of Departments, the Registrar, the Bursar, Acting Librarian, Academic & non-academic members of the university and other invitees graced the event.

The students who have completed their degree programmes from Bachelor of Arts General Degree (Opted) – 2018; Bachelor of Arts-Special Degree – 2018; Bachelor of Arts Honours-2019; Bachelor of Arts Honours in Translation Studies – 2019; Bachelor of Laws-2020 and Postgraduate Diploma in Education– 2020 (Part-Time) were conferred relevant degrees. It's noteworthy that the 35th General Convocation – Part II also took place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of March 2022. At this Convocation, from the Faculty of Arts, 52 graduands received their LLB degrees, 15 graduands received their BA special degrees in Translation Studies, 309 graduands received their BA special degrees and 02 graduands received their BA general degrees. In addition, 63, 56, and 20 graduates received their BFA degrees in Dance (Bharatham), Music and Art & Design respectively.



# Department Activities

## The Launching of 'Master of Christian Studies' Postgraduate Programme



The Department of Christian & Islamic Civilizations has inaugurated a Master of Christian Studies program. This program will be conducted with the administrative patronage of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The launching of the program took place on the 27th of July 2022.

Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah, Vice Chancellor, was the Chief Guest and the Catholic Bishops of Jaffna, Mannar and Trincomalee namely the Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin B. Gnanapragasam, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Fernando and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Noel Emmanuel participated in the event as Guests of Honour. The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebaanesan, Bishop Emeritus of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, Rev. Dr. P. J. Jebaratnam, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Jaffna, Prof. P. Balasundarampillai and Prof. N. Shanmugalingan, former Vice Chancellors, and many other dignitaries graced the occasion. Prof. S. Kannathasan, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, chaired the event.



## Welcome to Rt. Rev. Dr. Ranjith Pillainayagam, the Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo

Bishop Ranjith Pillainayagam, presently the Auxiliary Bishop of the Arch-Diocese of Colombo, is an alumnus of the University of Jaffna. He read for a B. Sc special degree in Statistics in the Faculty of Science from 1988 to 1993 and later served as Temporary Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics. He also obtained his M.Phil from the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Jaffna.

When he visited Jaffna for the first time after his Episcopal Ordination held in Colombo, the Dept. of Christian and Islamic Civilizations organized a welcome function to felicitate him at his Alma Mater, the University of Jaffna, on the 15th of August 2022.

Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah, the Vice Chancellor and Bishop Rajith Pillainayagam's teacher, former Vice Chancellor Prof. P. Balasuntharampillai, Deans of different Faculties, Heads of Departments and many other lecturers participated in

the event. The Very Rev. Fr. P. J. Jebaratnam, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Jaffna, the Very Rev. Fr. Eugene Benedict OMI, the Provincial Head of the Jaffna Province of OMI and many other dignitaries also graced the occasion.

## The Art History Alumni of the Department of Fine Arts

An alumni association of Art History students was formed on 16.1.2022. A Constitution of the Association was also adopted at this meeting along with the election of the Association's first office bearers.

## Bifurcation Department of Fine Arts

The Drama & Theater Arts discipline which had functioned under the Department of Fine Arts for more than three decades became a separate Department under the newly established Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan Faculty of Performing and Visual Art on 18 May 2022.

## Study Tour – 2022

The second-year students of the Dept. of Christian & Islamic Civilizations went on an island-wide study tour from the 18th to the 20th of October 2022. They visited Hindu, Buddhist and Christian places of worship in Anuradhapura, Galgamuwa, Negombo and Kandy. Tour guides were arranged by the Department to explain to the students the history, architecture and artwork found in these ancient sites. The purpose of the tour was to help the students to appreciate the richness of other religious traditions found in Sri Lanka and encourage the students to develop a positive attitude towards other religions and cultures.

Thirty-five students benefitted from this study tour. They were accompanied by the Head and lecturers of the Department.

## Tribute to Late Rev. Dr. Anton Mathias

The Dept. of Christian & Islamic Civilizations organized a memorial event for the former Head of the Department, the late Rev. Dr. Anton Mathias on the 22nd of November 2022 at Kailasapathy Auditorium. The Late Rev. Dr. Anton Mathias served as the Head of the Department from 1997 to 2004. The community of the University of Jaffna gracefully paid



tribute to him. The Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah and many others expressed their sentiments about the late Rev. Dr. Mathias. The loving sisters and relatives of late Rev. Dr. Mathias also participated in the event.

**Welcome and Farewell**

The Department of Christian & Islamic Civilizations organized an event on the 7th of December 2023 to welcome the first-year students and bid farewell to the final-year students. The outgoing students expressed their sentiments and shared their experiences with the junior students. The new students introduced themselves and spoke about their ambitions and aspirations. Dr. Dinesh Coonghe, Head, Dept. of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, graced the event as Chief Guest.



**Christmas 'Oli Vizah' 2022**

The Christmas Oli Vizah for the year 2022 organized by the Dept. of Christian & Islamic Civilizations of the University of Jaffna was held at Kailasapathy Auditorium on the 20th of December 2022.



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin Bernard Gnanaprasam, the Bishop of Jaffna, was graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof. S

Srisatkunarahah, the Vice Chancellor of the University, was participated in the event as Guest of Honour. Prof. K. Suthakar, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts was invited as Special Guest. The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan, the Bishop Emeritus of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, Rev. Dr. P. J. Jebaratnam, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Jaffna, Prof. P. Balasundarampillai, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, Prof. S. Kannathasan, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Prof. P. Ravirajan, Dean of the Faculty of Science, many other Deans, Professors, Heads of Departments and lecturers participated in the event. As a special event of the day, the students of the University of Jaffna enacted a Natukoothu in the traditional Thenmodi style of the Mannar region.

**Documentary Film Festival-2022**

Fourteen documentary films produced by the students of the Department of Media Studies on a variety of themes were screened on the 22nd of November 2022 at the Kailasapathy Auditorium, University of Jaffna. Students of the University and members of the public attended this event in large numbers.



**The Annual 'Inspire' Forum**

As part of the Inspire programme series, which comes under the Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Helvetas Intercooperation gGmbH and the University of Jaffna, an annual forum was organized in Colombo by Helvetas with the support of the Sri Lanka Development Journalists Forum (SDJF) on the 28th of May 2022. The theme of the Forum was 'LEARN. SHARE. CONNECT – Diversifying Learning Through Synergies'. The overall objectives of the Forum were to provide a platform for knowledge building and information exchange, create opportunities for cross-fertilization of ideas, and enable peer-to-peer learning. A total of 60 students from the University of Jaffna, University of Peradeniya, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and South Eastern University participated in this Forum.



**MIL Summit 2022**

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) supported a study of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Education in Sri Lanka. This study was facilitated by the Department of Media Studies, University of Jaffna as per a Memorandum of Understanding between Center for Media and Information Literacy (CMIL) and the University. The 'MIL Summit 2022' was organized on the 27th of July 2022 to share the major findings of the study with the media, and academics, researchers, and students who work in the areas of media and communication. The Department of Media Studies at the University of Jaffna, the Department of Sinhala and Mass Communication at the University of Sri Jayawardanepura, CEMCA and The FACTS jointly organized this virtual event.

More than a hundred participants from the University of Sri Jayawardanepura, University of Jaffna, University of Kelaniya, Open University of Sri Lanka, University of Colombo and Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University were gathered at this Summit. um of Agreement signed between the Helvetas Intercooperation gGmbH and the

### Launch of the 'Integrated Newsroom'



An event to officially launch an 'Integrated Newsroom', a novel idea that aims to provide exposure and training to the students of the Department of Media Studies to work in print, electronic and new media sectors under one umbrella took place on the 6th of December 2022.

The Newsroom was established as per an MoU signed between the HELVETAS Intercooperation gGmbH Sri Lanka and the University of Jaffna.

### Special Lecture

The Department of Philosophy organized a special Lecture on Ambiguous Loss on the 30th of November 2022. Ms. Arundathi Abeybala, a psychologist with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and her team delivered the lecture.

### Residential Workshop

The Department of Philosophy conducted a two-day residential workshop on Counseling in collaboration with the Catholic Association of Sri Lanka.



### Training Program

Visions Empowerment of Sri Lanka co-facilitated a four-day training program on "Active Global Citizenship" for the students of the Faculty of Arts in collaboration with Department of Philosophy, Jaffna University. Funding support for the program was provided by the IGoCitizen team of York University, Canada.



### MoU Signed

Global Communities / USAID signed an MOU with the University of Jaffna on the 10th of October 2022 to award to the Department of Philosophy an "in-kind" grant to support the project "Increasing Counselor Capacity and Youth Involvement in MHPSS."

### Webinar Series

An International Webinar Series on Youth, Truth and the Meaning of Life was jointly conducted by the Department of Philosophy and the Well-Being Center of the University of Jaffna. Mr. N. Sivakaran, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, coordinated and moderated this webinar series successfully.

### Webinar Series in the Department of Economics

The Department of Economics concluded an insightful Webinar Series in 2022. This Series aimed at enriching the knowledge of both the undergraduates and the wider public. Distinguished scholars including Dr. S. Ganesamoorthy (University of Colombo), Prof. S. Santhirasegaram (University of Jaffna), Prof. T. Bavan (Eastern University), Prof. Sirimal Aberatne (University of Colombo), Prof. Pavithira Kailasapathy (University of Colombo), Mr. T. Sanjeevan (Central Bank of Sri Lanka), Prof. M. A. M. Aslam (Sabaragamuwa University), Dr. S. N. Morais (Open University of Sri Lanka) delivered engaging lectures on various topics. These sessions fostered robust discussions and were received well by the audience.

### Presentations on Budget 2023

In an effort to trigger a conversation on the Budget for the year 2023,, Prof. S. Vijayakumar and Prof. S. Santhirasegaram conducted enlightening lectures in the Department of Economics in November 2022. Their sessions expertly connected theoretical concepts with their practical dimensions offering valuable insights to the audience.

### Enriching Soft Skills through Industrial Visit

Demonstrating a commitment to nurturing holistic skills among its undergraduates, the Department of Economics organized an enriching industrial visit to Annai Sea Food, Jaffna. This visit, integral to the Fisheries Economics course unit offered by the Department, was arranged by Ms. M. D. A. Christian. The visit provided students and staff with practical exposure.

### Commemorating the Legacy of Mr. N. Perinpanathan

In honor of the late Mr. N. Perinpanathan, a former Senior



Academic of the Department of Economics, Prof. S. Santhirasegaram launched a commemorative book. This tribute, marking the 45th day memorial event, celebrates the enduring contributions of a respected scholar.

### Promoting Economic Education through Outreach

Prof. S. Vijayakumar, Dr. (Ms.) K. Karunaanithy, and Mr. S. S. Uthayakumar served as resource persons in creating YouTube videos on Economics for the A/L ECON Teachers Program & Capacity Building Program (Nena Paruwa) in the Tamil medium. This program initiated by the Ministry of Education aims to enhance economic literacy among

students and educators across Sri Lanka.

**MoU Signed**

Global Communities / USAID signed an MOU on 11th of October 2022 to award the Department of Philosophy an “in-kind” grant in support of the project: Increasing The Department of Economics hosted the prestigious 43rd meeting of the Sri Lanka Forum of University Economists at the Physics Mini Auditorium, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna. Esteemed economists from various universities engaged in insightful discussions at this Forum. Prof. Atputharajah delivered the keynote address.

**Commemorating the Legacy of Mr. N. Perinpanathan**

In honor of the late Mr. N. Perinpanathan, a former Senior Academic of the Department of Economics, Prof. S. Santhirasegaram launched a commemorative book. This tribute, marking the 45th day memorial event, celebrates the enduring contributions of a respected scholar.

**43rd Meeting of the Sri Lanka Forum of University Economists**

The Department of Economics hosted the prestigious 43rd meeting of the Sri Lanka Forum of University Economists at the Physics Mini Auditorium, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna. Esteemed economists from various universities engaged in insightful discussions at this Forum. Prof. Atputharajah delivered the keynote address.

**Political Science Seminars**



The Department of Political Science conducted a series of seminars and a special guest talk. Prof. K. T. Ganeshalingam conducted a seminar on the theme 'Changes in the Order of World Politics: After Covid-19' at the 28th annual scientific sessions of the Jaffna Science Association held on 25th February 2022. A special address on eco-politics was delivered by Prof. Nataraja Sriskandaraja, Swedish Agricultural University on the 29th of September 2022. Professor N. K. Kumaresanraja, Pondicherry University, delivered a special address on 'South-South Cooperation and India's Development Partnership in South Asia'. Mr. A. Nixon, senior journalist, delivered a special lecture on Contemporary Politics in the News



**8th Jaffna International Cinema Festival**

The Jaffna International Cinema Festival of Agenda 14 was held from 30th December 2022 till 08th January 2023 with the academic partnership of the Department of Fine Arts and The Film society of the University of Jaffna. At this festival, 34 films representing 26 countries and 26 short films were screened. During the Festival, two master classes were conducted by renowned film personalities on the topics 'Script development for independent film' and 'Sound design technology and techniques'. A panel discussion on the topic “Sri Lankan Tamil Language Cinema”: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” was also held.

**Commemoration function**



A commemoration event organized by the Department of Political Science, for the late Mr. Santhanpillai Sakayaseelan, former Senior Lecturer in Political Science and the posthumous launch of his book Tamil Political Movements in Sri Lanka and Tamil Nationalism was held on the 29th of June 2022.



**MoU signed between ADIC and UoJ in order to work on Alcohol and Drugs Awareness and Advocacy**

The Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Education and Advocacy Programmes on Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Prevention and Awareness Collaboration was signed between the Alcohol and Drug Information Center (ADIC) and the University of Jaffna on the 25th of May 2022 at the University of Jaffna.

Prof. S.Srisatkunarajah, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jaffna and Mr. Pubudu Sumanasekara, Executive Director, Alcohol and Drug Information Center (ADIC) signed the MoU on behalf of both institutions.

Prof. K. Suthakar, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Dr.S.Raguram, Head, Department of Media Studies, Ms. Anusha Sivanewaran, Deputy Registrar, Faculty of Arts, Lecturers and students of the Department of Media Studies and Mr. A. C. Raheem, Senior Programme Officer and other officials from ADIC were also taking part in the event.

The agreement was made for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the students of the Department of Media Studies, University of Jaffna to respond to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs promotions and to involve in effective prevention activities.

Further, the MoU aimed to build the capacity of the media studies students to engage them in creating awareness among the local community and investigating social issues, improve the understanding of trade manipulation of print and electronic media and produce the creative materials to mobilize the community to have appropriate awareness regarding the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

As per the agreement, training programmes and a short film competition will be conducted and the students will be offered to follow an online certificate course to improve students' knowledge of alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues.

In addition to this, media studies students will conduct surveys regarding alcohol, tobacco and other drug promotions in the region and format the report with the technical support of ADIC and those will be released as the collaborative production of the University of Jaffna and ADIC.



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Global Communities / USAID signed an MOU on 10th of October 2022 to award to the University of Jaffna, Faculty of Arts, Department of Philosophy an “in-kind” grant in support of the project: Increasing Counselor Capacity and Youth Involvement in MHPSS.

**MoU Signed between Centre for Media and Information Literacy (CMIL) and the University of Jaffna**



A Memorandum of Understanding to promote media and information literacy among students was signed between the Center for Media and Information Literacy (CMIL) and the University of Jaffna on the 19th of July 2022.

This MoU provides the framework required for both the University of Jaffna and the CMIL for collaboration and knowledge-sharing. It also aims to promote activities such as research, training, knowledge-sharing events, and publications in the area of information literacy and information dissemination..

**MOU between the Goethe-Institute Sri Lanka and the Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna signed on 29 September 2022.**

The Goethe-Institute, Sri Lanka and the Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna have been partnering in a wide variety of cultural exchange programs in the fields of visual arts, drama, dance, music, film, debates and photography since 2013. This MoU is to formalize this growing partnership and encourage more joint initiatives and collaborative projects between the two entities. The Goethe-Institute will continue to bring experts, professionals and recognized artists from Germany and the South-Asian region to Jaffna and the partners agree to share resources, space and expertise for these collaborative projects as per their abilities.



**MOU between the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Sri Lanka and the Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna signed on 20 October 2022**

This MoU formalizes an established partnership, and is entered into with the intention of facilitating future joint initiatives and collaborative projects between the Fine Arts Department of the University of Jaffna and the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Sri Lanka. This MoU fronts an enhanced cooperation between the two institutions extending to all areas of mutual interest, shared knowledge and expertise, and research and scholarship across a wide range of initiatives and/or activities related, but not limited to the visual arts, architecture and design, photography and the moving image.

### Joint Field visit with Foreign University

The Department of Geography arranged field visits in collaboration with Philipps University of Marburg, Germany to study various issues related to rural development in the Northern Province, Sri Lanka from the 2nd March to the 5th March 2022 and later from the 30th March to 2nd April 2022 in selected places in the Province.



### World Environmental Day

The Department of Geography, University of Jaffna celebrated the World Environmental Day - 2022 on the 6th of June 2022. The Department conducted a quiz competition and issued cash prizes and certificates to 3 students who successfully completed the minimum required standards of the quiz.



### GEOFORUM

Geoforum Series 4 and 5 were conducted by Department of Geography under the topics of Importance and Structure of a Partnership Mechanism for Integrated Policy Making and Implementation between Civil Society Development Administration and Research Institutions and Sea Cucumber Farming and Present Trends and Future in the Jaffna District on 29th of January and 15th of December respectively. Retired Senior SLAS Officer, Former Director, Department of Industries Management Development Training Department (MDTD) and Secretariat for Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs (SIHRN), NEP, Sri Lanka and Mr. A. Annalinkam (President, Jaffna District Association of the Fisherman's Cooperative Societies) contributed to the forum as main resource persons. Workshops at Department of Geography.

### Workshops at the Geography Department

Two workshops on Leadership were organized by the Department of Geography on 3rd November and 2nd December. Mr. Anpalahan Paul (Training Facilitator – Youth Leadership President at Jaffna Toastmasters Club) and Ms. Nivetha Sivarajah (Program Officer, Women Empowerment & Economic Development Co- Founder, Manitham) conducted these workshops and on 10th November a

Workshop on Digital Documentation was conducted with the assistance of Mr. Sujeevan Tharmartnam (Governance Board Member - Noolaham Foundation) 10th November 2022. Workshop on Leadership.

### Guest Lecture

Dr. Deborah Johnson (McFarlane), Lecture in Politics and International Relations, University of Exeter, UK delivered a guest under the title "The Mothers of Mannar: 'The Political Nun?'" at the Department of Geography on 14th December 2022.

### Geography Seminar

Department of Geography organized a seminars on Developing Critical Media Consumption, on 16th December 2022 and Freshwater Desalination Problem and Freshwater Conservation Management of Jaffna District on 20th December 2022. Priyatharsiny Vijayaratnam (Freelance Consultant - Training and Facilitation – Social Development Sector) and Eng. Kunaraj Sujeevan, Irrigation Engineer, Department of Irrigation, Jaffna were participated as resource persons.



### Short Course on Parliamentary Functions and Procedures

A short course on parliamentary functions and procedures recently initiated by the Parliament of Sri Lanka for Universities was introduced to the Media Studies students. The inauguration of the course was held on the 31st of October 2022 at the University of Jaffna.

This course intends to cover topics such as Democracy and the Parliamentary System, the Legislative Process of Parliament, the Evolution of the Parliamentary System, the Parliamentary Committee System, Parliament and the Public, the Code of Conduct for the Members of Parliament, Standing Orders, Correlation for Public Service Process and Women's Representation. This short course includes four lectures and a study tour around Parliament.



# Staff Achievements



Mr. Nagamuthu Piratheeparajah, (Senior Lecturer Gr. II), Department of Geography, was awarded a PhD in Climatology at the 60th convocation of the University Sains Malaysia (Penang) held in 2022.

## Visiting Scholar



Prof. K. Suthakar, Department of Geography, visited the Department of Urban and Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden, under the Linnaeus -Palme Teacher Exchange Program for three weeks in 2022. During the visit, he conducted special lectures for graduate students, presented his research, and participated in a number of seminars and discussions.

## APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, TRANSFER AND SUPPORTING STAFF

### Appointments



Dr. T. Sanathanan was appointed as the Head of Department of Fine Arts in May 2022.  
Dr. T. Sanathanan was appointed as Professor of Art History.



Dr. S. Raguram was promoted as Professor in Media Studies with effect from the 18th of June 2021.



Rev. Dr. Poul Rohan was promoted as Professor in Christian Civilization with effect from 18th of June 2021



Mrs. Abirami Rajkumar, Senior Lecturer Gr. I, was appointed as Head of the Department of Philosophy in October 2022.



Mr. N. Niroshan was promoted to Senior Lecturer (Grade II) in Philosophy with effect from the 5th of April 2022.

## Appointment: Non – Academic Staff



Mr. Thevapalan Yasotharan was appointed as Lab Attendant (Gr III) in the Department of Geography in May 2023.



Mr. Paramsivam Pathmanathan was promoted as a Senior Staff Technical officer in the Department of Geography in October 2018.



Mr. K. Vijiharan was promoted as Management Assistant (Grade II) with effect from the 07th of April 2020.

## Higher Studies



PInr. S. Raveendran, Senior Lecturer Gr I, Department of Geography, commenced his doctoral studies in Planning at the University of Dundee, Scotland in April 2021.



Mr. R. Sharveswara, Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Education, has been awarded the Australia Awards Scholarship by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian Government. He is currently enrolled in a Master of Education (Educational Psychology) program at the University of Sydney.



Mr. N. Sivakaran, Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, was awarded an ODA (Overseas Development Assistance) scholarship by Keele University in the UK. He has started his doctoral studies at Keele University.



Mrs. T. Gorden, Lecturer (Probationary) at the Department of Philosophy, is currently pursuing an MPhil degree in Philosophy at the Department of Philosophy, University of Peradeniya.



Mr. N. Thasarathan, Lecturer, Department of Geography, commenced his doctoral studies in Geography at the National University of Malaysia (UKM), Malaysia in 2020.



Ms. Kirubalini Stephen, Lecturer (Probationary) left for Malaysia to read for an MA degree in Art History at Malaya University.

## Student Activity

N PATHIVU/ Issue 03 /2022

### Kalai Vattam Talks

Kalai Vattam, the student organization of the Art History Students of the Department of Fine Arts, organized the following guest lectures:

- 1) S. Sujitha 21 December 9, 2023 Large wells in Jaffna : Structure and the cultural meaning.
- 2) N. Govindharajan, Assistant Instructional professor, South Asian Language and civilization, University of Chicaco, USA National Language and Tamil 3) 3rd August, A Biriyanthy War memorial: Meaning and the politics of residence 27 July

### Shiramadhana

The Young Planner's Association, Department of Geography Organized a Shiramadhana event to highlight the importance of creating a proper solid waste management system to protect our environment on the 25th of September 2022 at J/ Katheepa Maha Vidiyalayam, Jaffna.

### Drug Prevention

The Young Planner's Association, Department of Geography organized an awareness program on drug prevention on the 7th of October 2022 at J/ Ealalai Primary School.

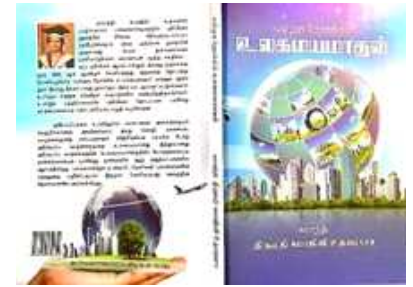
## Publications of the Staff

### Books

Dr. K. Kajavinthan, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Department of Philosophy, has published a book titled வழிகாட்டலும் உளவளத்துணையும் (Guidance and Counselling)



Dr. Mrs. Subajini Uthayarasa, Senior Lecturer Gr I, Department of Geography, has published a book on the title பன்முக நோக்கில் உலகமயமாதல்.



## Student Achievements

Mr. Vasanthan Thusyanthan, who read for a special degree in Philosophy, was awarded the Alagaiah Thuraiarajah Gold Medal for All Round Best Performance at the Faculty level at the 36th General Convocation held in October 2022.



### Winners of short film competition

