New President of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon

Mr. M R M Haniffa was appointed as the new President of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon with effect from July 2016. Mr. M R M Haniffa was ceremonially inducted as the new President by presenting him the President’s Medal by Mr. K R Dayananda, Immediate Past President at the Annual Dinner on 16th June 2016.

Farewell to the former Dean and Welcoming of the New Dean

A party was organized by the staff of CCS to bid farewell to the outgoing Dean, Mr. M R M Haniffa and to welcome the new Dean, Professor P A Paranagama on 22nd July 2016 at Adamantane House. Professor Paranagama was appointed as the Dean/CCS with effect from July 2016. She is on sabbatical leave from the University of Kelaniya.

Applying Today to Join Our Graduateship/Technician Programmes

Applications are invited from those having three GCE (A/L) passes in recognized scientific disciplines (including Chemistry as a subject) or equivalent such as Diploma in Chemistry, or awaiting results on GCE (A/L) for the Graduateship Programme scheduled to start basic non-Credit courses in December, 2016. Admissions to the programme are possible for those having passes in the Diploma in Laboratory Technology (DLTC) programme conducted by our Institute. Prospective BSc Graduates from recognized universities can also apply directly for admission to the last two years of the Graduateship programme while they are in the third year of a BSc Programme of a recognized University. Those with GCE (O/L) qualification or only one A/L pass in Chemistry can apply for the two year Diploma in Laboratory Technology in Chemistry (DLTC) programme scheduled to commence in January 2017. This programme is also offered on weekend and weekdays.

Graduateship Programme in Chemistry

This is equivalent to a BSc (Honours/Special) degree of a University and can be followed on weekends OR three weekdays at very low cost without any delays.

College of Chemical Sciences
Institute of Chemistry Ceylon
Adamantane House, 341/22, Kotte Road, Welikada, Rajagiriya

Those having/expecting three A/L passes (SL/UK) or DLTC or equivalent qualifications can obtain application form/prospectus/other information free of charge from Adamantane House at the above address on any day.

Attending Orientation Sessions on October 29 (Saturday) OR November 26 (Saturday) at 10 am for more information

We are the largest producer of Graduate Chemists and the only producer of Chemistry Technicians at very low cost in Sri Lanka.
College of Chemical Sciences (CCS) News in brief

**ACADEMIC BOARD 2016/ 2017**

Chairman  
Prof. S P Deraniyagala

Vice Chairman  
Prof. G M K B Gunaherath

Secretary  
Dr. Chandanie Udawatte

Asst. Secretary  
Ms. Michelle Weerawardhena

Ex-Officio Members:
Mr. M R M Haniffa (President), Mr. E G Somapala, Prof. M D P de Costa (Treasurer), Dr. A A P Keerthi (Hony Joint Secretary), Prof. Priyani Paranagama (Dean/ CCS)

**Elected Members:**
Prof. H D Gunawardhana, Prof. Ramanee Wijesekera, Prof. Siromi Samarasinghe, Dr. Lakshmi Arambewela, Prof. S A Deraniyagala, Mr. N M S Hettigedara, prof. Sithy Iqbal, Ms. P M Jayasinghe, Ms. M N K de S Goonettleike, Mrs. Nalin De Silva, Mr. K R Dayananda.

**Co-opted Members:** Dr. P Iyngaran, Dr. R. Senthilnithy

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**Interschool Chemistry Quiz Competition**
The Inter- School Chemistry Quiz Competition was held on the 5th June 2016 at the PPGL Siriwardene Auditorium, Adamantane House. The final rounds took place in a much tensed atmosphere, with Island wide schools battling on a common ground. Due to their extra ordinary performance the girls of Vincent Girls High School, Batticalo became the Champions.

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**First Aid Training Workshop**
The Saukyadana Unit of CCS organized this workshop on the 9th of May at Adamantane House to educate the staff and the students of CCS on First Aid Training. The second first-aid workshop was held on 1st of August.

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**Eight Inaugural Professional Lecture**

Professor Priyani Paranagama, who is a Senior Professor and the Chair of Organic Chemistry of the Department of Chemistry, University of Kelaniya and the Dean of College of Chemical Sciences, delivered the eighth inaugural professional lecture on “A Journey through Sri Lankan Medicinal Plants, Essential Oils and Endolichenic Fungi: bioactivity and value addition.” This lecture was held on the 8th of June 2016 at the PPGL Siriwardene Auditorium, Adamantane House. Many lecturers, students, staff and visitors attended this lecture.

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**Seminar on “Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy”**

This seminar was held on the 16th of August 2016 at Adamantane House. The resource persons were Prof. H D Gunawardhana, Prof. K A S Pathirathne, Dr. S R Gunathilake and Dr. M N Kaunal. We witnessed the participation of many people from industries and students.

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**Workshops by the Career Guidance Unit**
The Career Guidance Unit of the Alumni Association of CCS organized workshops on “Higher Education” on the 23rd of June and “Personality Development” on the 19th of July for the students of CCS.

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**10th Annual Research Session**
The 10th Annual Research Sessions were held on the 5th and 6th of August 2016 at Adamantane House which were conducted by Dr. Chinthaka.

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Do not go around saying that the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first - Mark Twain
Aura 2k16
Aura 2016, an extravaganza signature event organized annually by the Student Association of the College of Chemical Sciences. It is a talent show where the Chemists-to-be and Graduate Chemists performed their acts. This time it was held at the Kularathne Hall, Ananda College for the 8th consecutive time. The event was very colorful with dances, singing performances and drama with elegant costumes and props. Many lecturers and staff graced this event. We had a house full of an enthusiastic audience who sat back till the end of the show with enjoyment. The guest performance was by none other than Dulshan DKM who got the crowd going with his amazing voice and Mihindu Ariyaratne graced the event as the Chief Guest where he mesmerized the audience with his electrifying rock performance backed up by the musical band. The guests of honor of the evening were Prof. S. P. Deraniyagala, Prof. Priyani Paranagama, Mr. M. R. M. Haniffa and Dr. M. Infas.

Eid Celebrations
On the 20th July 2016, the students of CCS organized a Ramazan Festival for all the staff and students of CCS. The objective of this programme was to understand the diversity of cultures among the CCS family. This was followed by a delicious lunch.

Bana and Bhakthi Gee
The Annual Bana programme was held on the 18th May 2016 followed by a peaceful and lovely Bhakthi Gee at Adamantane House. The event was organized by the Student Council and many students and lecturers graced the occasion.

The 5th Installation Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of CCS
The installation ceremony of the 5th President Rtr. Imasha Hansani and her board of directors were held on the 25th of July 2016. This event was held at the PPGL Siriwardena Auditorium of Adamantane House, Rajagiriya. The Chief Guest for the evening was Rtn. Anura Warnakulasooriya and the Guest of Honour was Prof. S.P. Deraniyagala. Many Rotaractors, students, Rotarians and Interactors graced the event.

Carrom Bash
The annual carom tournament was held on the 15th of August 2016 at Adamantane House premises organized by the Rotaract Club of CCS.

Rugby Encounter
CCS vs SAITM 7-a-side Rugby Encounter was held on the 14th of August 2016 at Thurstan Sports Complex. SAITM Rugby team achieved a victory of 3-0.

Rotaract Eve
Organized by the Rotaract Club of CCS, this event was held on the 20th of June 2016 for the freshmen to enroll them into the club.

“The most exciting phrase to hear is Science that heralds new discoveries is not “Eureka” (I found it) but “That’s funny”
- Isaac Asimov
Redbull Campus Cricket
This is an annual international T20 cricket tournament for college cricket teams. On the 27th of July 2016, CCS played against BMS.

Credence 2016
The Gavelier in You is a workshop organized by the Gavel Club of CCS and which was held on the 22nd of August 2016. The workshop focused on creating awareness to the college about the Gavel Club and the benefits of public speaking.

Farewell to Teaching Assistants.....
The following Teaching Assistants who are our own graduate chemists resigned to pursue higher studies at the following Universities,

Ms. Sharon Corea- Virginia Commonwealth University, USA
Mr. Kavinda Herath- Wayne State University, USA
Mr. Nuresshan Diaz- University of Missouri, USA
Ms. Rukshika Hewawasam- University of Rhode Island, USA
Mr. Sherwyn Hamidon- University of Science, Malaysia
Ms. Komadhi Dissanayake- Eastern Illinois University, USA

Flood Relief
The staff and the students of CCS donated dry rations, food items, clothes, blankets and other useful items to the victims of the “flash floods” during the month of May. The money collected for the dansala was also donated to this worthy cause.

Upcoming Events......
AGM of Students Association - 05th September
Inter-School Titration Competition - 26th- 29th September 2016
Workshop on Bioassay methods in Natural Products - 30th September 2016
Workshop on Water Quality and Human Health - 4th October 2016
Visit of Cincinnati Delegates - 11th October 2016
Training Seminar on “Emission Spectroscopic Techniques on Elemental Analysis” - 22nd November 2016
CHEMEX 2017 - 26th - 28th January 2017

Australian National Chemistry Quiz Competition
For the 20th consecutive year, IChemC hosted the Australian National Chemistry Quiz Competition on the 23rd of July 2016. This year there were 98 schools registered where 4292 juniors and 3384 seniors competed. All together there were 33 exam centres dispersed islandwide.

How to be a good researcher?
A seminar on “How to be a good researcher” was held on the 30th of May by a Lead Scientist of US Department of Agriculture, Dr. O P Perera at IChemC.

“SUCCESS is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm” - Winston Churchill

You are educated when you have the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or self-confidence - Robert Foster
The Annual Sessions of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon was held on three consecutive days from 15th to 17th June 2016. Prof. E. R. Jansz who is an Emeritus Professor of the University of Sri Jayawardenapura graced the occasion as the Chief Guest on the first day where it was held at the Auditorium of the Centre for Banking Studies, Rajagiriya. The recognition for the “Professor M. U. S. Sultanbawa for Research in Chemistry” was awarded to Professor Sagarika Ekanayaka. On this day, many awards for students were also presented. For the first time, awards were also given to students who excelled in Extra-curricular activities. On the second day a Theme Seminar on “Ethics, Values and Responsibilities of Chemists in National Development” took place at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. It was a very useful seminar for most Chemists. We witnessed the participation of many people who work in Laboratories. On the third day, Technical Sessions were held where many students in both local Universities and in CCS presented their research findings at the PPGL Siriwardena Auditorium, Adamantane House.

The Annual General Meeting of IChemC was held on the 15th June 2016 following the Inaugural Sessions. This was held at the PPGL Siriwardena Auditorium, Adamantane House which was chaired by the President of the Institute, Mr. K. R. Dayananda and his Secretary, Dr. Keerthi Attanayake. The auditorium was filled with members of the IChemC. The council members for the year 2016/2017 were finalised.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Opulent Riverside Hotel, Nawala. It was an event of fellowship and banquet with all the staff members, lecturers and council members joining together. The President of the Council for the year 2016/2017, Mr. M. R. M. Haniffa was installed at this joyous event.

Environmental Conference on “Environmental Challenges for Sustainable Development”

The Institute of Chemistry Ceylon partnered with the Sri Lanka Lab Expo Exhibition to conduct a three day environmental conference at SLECC. The conference was hosted by Prof. O. Illeperuma. Many students and senior lecturers of universities were present. Hon. Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka was the Chief Guest for the commemoration of this prestigious event.

The Demise of our valued Past President - Mrs. Yogaranee Mahesan

Mrs. Y Mahesan, retired Government Analyst and Past President of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, passed away on the 30th August. She had a distinguished career before her retirement and was also quite active thereafter whenever she was in Sri Lanka. As a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon and a Chartered Chemist, she was the first lady to become the Government Analyst in the year 1964 and the first lady to become the Government analyst in 1992. She became the President of IChemC in 1994, after holding the position of Vice President in 1993. The President, the Council and members of IChemC wishes to express our deepest sympathies to her family members at this time of grief and great sorrow.
Role of Chemists for a Better Tomorrow

Chemistry as a subject and Chemists as a profession are closely linked and need to be given due recognition in society. ICHEMC has a major role in taking this message forward. It is an accepted fact that Chemistry is a central science, that Chemistry is everywhere; it is part of any sphere of life, be it agriculture, industry or even the household. However, the public perception of this subject (the image as it were) is not in keeping with the contribution made by those practicing the profession where chemistry plays a major role.

One of the most important functions of the new Council would be to take the message based on the theme to the next level through adequate publicity, to create an awareness amongst the public regarding the role of chemists in matters such as quality, quality assurance of consumer products including their safety etc. The Chartered Chemist could play a decisive role in such matters given the authority (empowerment as it were) to assure the public through an appropriate certification process of all consumer products.

The word CHEMICAL drives a sense of fear (dangerous/unsafe) in many ordinary people; it is a myth that we need to break by a concerted effort at providing necessary education, informally perhaps using the powerful media, electronic, print and now, the social media as well. We need to highlight the fact that two of the most important chemicals are water and oxygen /air (there will be no life without them, right?). Carbohydrates, Vitamins, Proteins etc. are all associated closely with chemistry and life itself. The fact that we are eating and breathing chemicals is taken for granted by the general public and is therefore, not appreciated. Be it Pharmaceuticals/drugs, plastics, petroleum, food technology or any other industry, the chemist plays a key role in research and related activities in the development of such industries.

Academic Performance of Students

The primary objective of any academic institute is to ensure that its students perform well at all examinations maintaining the standards set by the said institute. ICHEMC is no exception in this regard. In addition to the formal lectures, we have also encouraged additional tutorial classes including the PASS programme (Peer Assisted Student Support - an interactive method to motivate studies) in order to assist the students further and there by improve their performance at Exams.

Attendance at lectures and the academic performance at exams are closely related. Whilst not wishing to elaborate further in this regard, the fact is that attendance have not been satisfactory and the consequences are very clear when the exam results are announced.

Over the years, the number of extra-curricular activities have increased many fold giving all the students the opportunity to display their latent talents, be it sports, speechmaking, dancing etc. Facilities such as the canteen at the roof top, space at the supplementary campus have also been provided for the benefit of students. Students are encouraged to take part in such activities as part of the personality development but not (let me stress, NOT) at the expense of their studies.

This is a very important message for all our students.

Space Constraints at ICHEMC – Land at Malabe

With the increase in demand and popularity of the two main programmes on offer, GIC and DLTC, we have an acute shortage of space to carry out all our academic programme and other student and staff activities. We are very happy to report that the UDA land (80 perches at Malabe) has been approved and that we would be in a position to start the building project immediately taking all aspects of our space requirement into consideration. No doubt, it is a gigantic task. May I, therefore, appeal to all of you to assist us in this very important endeavor.

Council would give top priority for this activity immediately.

The way forward – support of all

Finally, I wish to make an appeal to all our staff, members, parents, students, the Alumni, and all well-wishers to extend your fullest support in carrying forward the objectives of CCS and ICHEMC. Certainly, we would welcome your moral and financial support for the future. (especially when our new building project comes into operation). Many plans are in the pipeline and I hope and pray that all of you would help us to achieve these.

The Demise of our valued Past President - Mr. Thambipillay Kandasamy

The members of the IChemC were deeply saddened to learn about the death of Mr T Kandasamy, coming as it did on the heels of the demise of Mrs Y. Mahesan, another past President of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon (IChemC). Mr T Kandasamy was one of the distinguished past Presidents of the IChemC.

Late Mr Kandasamy was one of the pioneers/founding fathers of the Chemical Society Ceylon [established in 1941], predecessor to the IChemC. He retired as a Government Analyst way back in 1986 and also served as President of IChemC in 1979. His dedicated and committed services to the IChemC was recognized when he was presented with the distinguished service award in 1999.