

## College of Chemical Sciences (CCS) News in Brief

### Advancement of Level 1 Course to March

From the year 2008 onwards, the level 1 course which was usually commenced in September/October was advanced to March, considering the change of date of the GCE A/L examination from April to August. This enables students to join the Graduateship programme soon after their advanced level examination results are released.

### Level 1 course in Kandy

The level 1 course in Kandy was started on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 at Kingswood College Kandy. The lectures are undertaken largely by Chemistry academics from the University of Peradeniya. These students have now joined their Colombo counterparts and have commenced their Level 2 lectures from September 2008.

### CCS Staff News

#### Return of Professor S. Sotheeswaran

Professor S. Sotheeswaran, Visiting Professor of Organic Chemistry will be back from Fiji on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008 & will be here until the end of January 2009. He will once again be at the College from mid-April to mid-May & again for a period of 6 months from July. We look forward to Prof. Sotheeswaran joining us on a full time basis very soon.

#### Teaching Assistants leave for Higher Studies

Mr. Santhush Liyanage, Mr. Sasith Karunaratne, Ms. Gobika Sivasubramaniam, Mr. B Vagulejan and Ms. PL Abeyratne, left the CCS over the past two months to proceed abroad on to their higher studies. We thank them for their services and wish them well.

Two new Teaching Assistants were appointed in July: Ms. W M L Silva from University of Sri Jayewardenepura & Mr. K S A Arachchige, Graduate Chemist (2007). Messers Lasantha Wickramasinghe and Ranmal Gunatilake will continue in their posts as Teaching Assistants. **Applications are invited for vacant posts of Teaching Assistants at the CCS.**

#### Off to China & Pakistan

**Dr. V M Thadhani**, Senior Lecturer in Organic Chemistry of the College attended the Annual Meeting of New Champions 2008 in Tianjin, China from 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008 on a nomination made by the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL) to the Inter Academy Panel of the Third World Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Thadhani will also attend the 11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Natural Products Chemistry to be held from 29<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 at HEJ Research Institute, International Centre for Chemical & Biological Sciences, University of Karachi, Pakistan.

#### Annual College Lunch

The annual College lunch, sponsored from the Dean's Entertainment Fund, took place at Seylan RajaBojun at Kollupitiya, on 08<sup>th</sup> July 2008. All the I CHEM C and College full time staff members were invited and the occasion enabled an informal social gathering for the staff.

#### Alumni Association Paduru Party on Oct 25

A Paduru Party organized by the Graduateship Alumni Association will be held at Adamantane House on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2008 from 7 pm onwards. The Executive Committee cordially invites all members to join and enjoy the event.

**Integrity is a virtue made up of morality, honesty and sincerity! Integrity is most essential because it asks us to say what we believe in and do what we say**

### New (31<sup>st</sup>) Intake of Graduateship students to level 1 at Colombo / Kandy

The 31<sup>st</sup> intake of students to the Graduateship programme in Chemistry has been advertised & the program is planned to start on **21<sup>st</sup> February 2009**. Those who have three GCE (A/L) passes, including Chemistry or DLTC or equivalent will be eligible to enroll. The students who have sat for the GCE Advanced level examination (2008) can also join (pending results) under provisional registration. (See page 8)

### Level 3/4 courses available in the current academic year 2008/2009

C3013	Special Topics in Chemistry (compulsory)
C3033/4033	Selected Topics in Physical Chemistry
C 3053/4053	Further Topics in Inorganic Chemistry
C3073/4073	Selected Topics in Analytical Chemistry
C3083/4083	Biochemistry II
C3123/4123	Food Chemistry and Technology
C3213/4213	Further Management, Economics and Marketing (conducted by Unilever Ltd)
C 3222/4222	Information Technology
C 3113/4113	Natural Products
C 3143/4143	Polymer Chemistry & Technology
C 3233/4233	Pharmaceuticals & Medicinal Chemistry
C 4273	Research Methods in Chemistry

### Second Research Sessions

The Second Research Sessions of the College of Chemical Sciences was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at Adamantane House. The research session comprised the presentations on the research projects done as part of course C 2911 (old structure) for the Part 2 of the Graduateship Examination. The oral examinations took place thereafter.

### Advancement of Practical Courses

Experience in hands on practicals play a vital role in a degree level program in Chemistry. Hence practicals should be offered together with (parallel to) the relevant theory courses for the students to get the real value of the programme. Due to the efficient and hard work of the full time and visiting staff (Academic and Non-academic) the elementary practical course which is especially modified as a general practical course, is now offered to our Graduateship students at level 1 of their studies. Prof M D P de Costa is the Co-ordinator.

### Industrial Visit to Lalan Rubbers (Pvt) Ltd organised by Social Affairs Committee

The Social Affairs Committee organised an industrial visit for some of our Graduateship students to Lalan Ltd in the Biyagama Trade Zone on 16.06.08. Students got a good awareness of the manufacture of dipped products & rubber bands starting from vulcanised rubber. We thank Mr. Justin Seneviratne & Graduate Chemist Ms. Enoka Karunaratna for hosting the visit which was organised by Graduate Chemist, Mr. K R Dayananda on behalf of the Social Affairs Committee.

## GRADUATESHIP EXAMINATION IN CHEMISTRY

### Level 2 Examination Results, 2008

#### Level 2 Award List, 2008

**First W F Pieris Memorial Trust Scholarship**

Mr. H. A. G. S. Perera

**Second Professor Pearlyn Perera Commemoration Trust Scholarship**

Mr. R. Loorthuraja

**Third Professor G C N Jayasuriya Memorial Scholarship**

Ms. D. L. Basnayake

**Fourth Family Leelarathna Scholarship** - Ms. C. H. Narangoda

Tops the List



Mr. H. A. G. S. Perera

#### MERIT BURSARIES (in order of merit)

1. Mr. Y. M. N. D. Y. Bandara
2. Ms. K. M. Rajapaksha
3. Ms. N. C. Abeysinghe
4. Ms. B. I. Karawdeniya
5. Ms. H. S. M. Fernando
6. Ms. M. L. C. Cooray
7. Ms. R. A. D. U. Ranawaka
8. Mr. J. V. A. Dahanayake
9. Ms. K. K. D. P. M. Dhanapali
10. Ms. N. P. W. Rathuwadu
11. Ms. W. M. U. D. Bandaranayake



Ms. D. L. Basnayake

#### SUBJECT PRIZES FOR BEST PERFORMANCES

**Professor J N Oleap Fernando Prize for Physical Chemistry**

Mr. S. D. J. Fernando & Ms. B. I. Karawdeniya

**Professor Samitha Deraniyagala Prize for Inorganic Chemistry**

Ms. C. H. Narangoda

**Professor Shiromi Samarasinghe Prize for Organic Chemistry**

Mr. R. Loorthuraja

**Yogarane and Family Prize for Analytical Chemistry**

Mr. R. Loorthuraja

**Prize for Biochemistry I**

Ms. D. N. Basnayake

**Rex Jayasinghe Memorial Prize for Electronics & Instrumentation for Chemists**

Mr. R. Loorthuraja



Ms. C. H. Narangoda

#### Dean's List of High Achievers - 2006/2008

Course No: 2007/130 (In order of Achievement)

1. Mr. R. Loorthuraja
2. Ms. D. L. Basnayake
3. Ms. C. H. Narangoda
4. Mr. H. A. G. S. Perera
5. Ms. K. M. Rajapaksha
6. Mr. Y. M. N. D. Y. Bandara
7. Ms. H. S. M. Fernando
8. Ms. B. I. Karawdeniya
9. Ms. N. P. W. Rathuwadu
10. Ms. M. L. C. Cooray
11. Ms. N. C. Abeysinghe
12. Ms. N. Sivapragasam

Tops the List



Mr. R. Loorthuraja

### New Graduateship Prizes and Scholarships

Under the current revised structure at levels 3/4 many new courses are being offered. Some of these courses do not have donors to award prizes for the best performers. Donations towards more prizes are therefore welcome. The following courses need immediate sponsorship to award the prizes next year.

- \* Special topics in Chemistry
- \* Biochemistry II
- \* Polymer Chemistry & Technology
- \* Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry

#### Thanks to our kind Donors for .....

**Professor P P G L Siriwardene** Memorial Prize for Further Topics in Inorganic Chemistry  
Prize donated by **Dr. Nissanka Seneviratne** for Natural Products Chemistry

### Graduateship Examinations under the new course structure

The examinations at levels 1-3 are now conducted under the new course structure in two sets: some papers are conducted earlier while the rest are conducted at the end of the academic year. All questions are compulsory in every paper. Results of Level 1 & 3 examinations will be released as early as possible. The College is very glad to report that there has been a remarkable improvement in performance at the **Level 2** examination. **Six candidates obtained distinctions (A) in all six papers.** These students are Messers H.A.G.S. Perera & R. Loorthuraja and Misses D.L. Basnayake, C.H. Narangoda, K.M. Rajapaksha & H.S.M. Fernando. We offer then our heartiest congratulations and wish them continued success.

### International News

#### RSC Chemistry chief slams creationist teaching in science

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) has totally distanced itself from the older Royal Society over its comments on the teaching of creationism in science lessons in UK schools. "If this really is the view of the Royal Society, where is science leadership in this country?" said Dr Richard Pike, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK.

He said that the debate must be brought into historical perspective and swiftly concluded, by considering the single example of Copernicus, which every schoolchild can relate to. Dr Pike emphasised: "Until the fifteenth century in Europe, the scientific view, heavily influenced by theological doctrine, was that the sun revolved around the Earth." Crucially, once Copernicus had demonstrated that it was the Earth that went round the sun, mainstream science was to accept this, and the discredited view abandoned - it was not taught as an equally valid alternative.

"Creationism represents man's attempts thousands of years ago to explain a complex world within the religious, social and limited scientific framework of that time.

"Science has had many 'Copernicus moments' since, and must move on. To teach creationism as a current alternative theory today, rather than an ancient philosophy, is to dismiss the entire body of quantitative, evidence-based science. There can be no 'cherry-picking' to select what is now socially acceptable to teach in science lessons.

He added, "It is incongruous that the Royal Society conveys the message it does, at a time when many of its Fellows are engrossed in replicating the birth of the universe within the Large Hadron Collider." ([www.rsc.org](http://www.rsc.org))

#### More students opt for Science & Maths in the UK for the fifth consecutive year.

While the three most popular courses for students wishing to enter UK universities this year remain as law, design studies and psychology, one surprise this year has been the rise of subjects which have been previously considered as unpopular: such increases in 2008 are in Mathematics (7.1%), Chemistry (4.6%), Biology (2.7%) & Physics (1.3%).

For the fifth year in a row, we are seeing increased interest in Science & Maths, which runs counter to the perception that they are in decline.

Employers are being increasingly vocal about the subject for the degree being less important which means that students are opting for what they find personally interesting (languages, science and philosophy) and to an extent away from business and IT.

(Extract from "the London paper" of 28.08.08 : [www.thelondonpaper.com](http://www.thelondonpaper.com))

**The significance of a man is not in what he attains but rather what he longs to attain - Kahlil Gibran**