

Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA) Annual General Meeting Minutes, November 04, 2024

The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA) was held online via Zoom on Monday, November 04, 2024, from 8:00 pm to 9:55 pm Eastern Time

- Annexure 1 2024 AGM Notice and Agenda.
- Annexure 2 List of CUFSAA members participated at the AGM 2024.
- Annexure 3 Executive Members Introduction.
- Annexure 4 Project progress Slides.
- Annexure 5 Secretary's (Annual) Report.
- Annexure 6 Treasurer's report.

Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Reshan Fernando, President of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association (CUFSAA) – North America welcomed all members who joined the meeting and called the meeting to order at 8:04 pm.

Opening Remarks by the President and the President-Elect

Dr. Fernando expressed his appreciation and thanked all members and sponsors who supported CUFSAA wholeheartedly and for staying with CUFSAA throughout the journey for the past eight years. He reiterated that all CUFSAA's accomplishments would not have been possible without the members and sponsors. He also extended a warm welcome and expressed CUFSAA's heartfelt gratitude to all partners from the Science Faculty, University of Colombo. He said Science Faculty partnership means a lot to CUFSAA and crucial for the organization's success.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Dr. Fernando shared the PowerPoint file prepared for the 2024 AGM. He shared the agenda slide with the members. Since no comments or objections were received, the agenda was accepted unanimously as proposed by Dr. Unil Perera and seconded by Dr. Binodh De Silva.

Introduction of the CUFSAA Executive Committee

Dr. Ferando invited the Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody, the President-Elect to address the meeting and

introduce the members of the CUFSAA executive committee. Dr. Jayakody address the meeting and said that current membership is at 559 and encouraged everyone in attendance to spread the word about CUFSAA among their friends and colleagues and help to recruit new members. He encouraged everyone to visit CUFSAA website (www.CUFSAA.org) to learn about what CUFSAA has done for the past 8 years to benefit the Science Faculty of University of Colombo. Dr. Jayakody requested help from members to grow CUFSAA membership to 750 by the next AGM. He shared a PowerPoint file with headshot photos of each member with a brief biographical information. He briefly introduced each of the 25 members of the executive committee. At the end, Dr. Jayakody thanked Ms. Isurika Weerasinghe for her hard work in putting together executive member profiles.

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on September 02, 2023

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on September 02, 2023, at the Toronto Grand Banquet & Convention Center was shared with the membership in advance of the meeting via email and through CUFSAA website (www.CUFSAA.org). The secretary, Dr. Wasundara Fernando presented the minutes. As there were no comments or concerns regarding the minutes, Dr. Fernando asked for a proposal to accept and second the minutes. Since there were no objections, minutes of the AGM 2023 were approved, proposed by Prof. L. M. V, Tillekeratne and seconded by Ms. Sandya Liyanarachchi.

Annual Report Presented by the Secretary

The secretary, Dr. Wasundara Fernando presented the Annual Report (or the Secretary's Report) for the period covering August 01, 2023 to September 30, 2024 which was prepared and distributed to the membership in advance of the meeting as well as posted on CUFSAA website (www.CUFSAA.org). The Report included a summary and details of what CUFSAA has accomplished during the term August 01, 2023 to September 30, 2024. The floor was opened for any questions or comments from the members. Without any questions, objections, or comments, the annual report was accepted, proposed by Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody and seconded by Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Sandya Liyanarachchi presented the Treasurer's Report for the period beginning from August 01, 2023 to September 30, 2024. The Treasurer's report was distributed among the members in advance of the meeting as well as posted on CUFSAA website (www.CUFSAA.org). Ms. Liyanarachchi provided an overview of the accounting including the beginning balance, numerous donations received for projects, project expenses, and the ending balance. The beginning account balance was \$28,244.62 and the ending account balance was \$69,949.79. The balance sheet reflected the growth and the financial strength of the organization. Total project expenses were at \$40,282.46 indicating a high volume of project activities and successful execution of CUFSAA mission. Ms. Sandya expressed her gratitude to all sponsors for their generosity and to all project chairs and subcommittees for their commitment to completion and continuation of numerous projects. The floor was opened for any questions or comments from the members. Without any questions, objections, or comments, the Treasurer's report was accepted, proposed by Dr. Vicumpriya Perera and seconded by Dr. Unil Perera.

Address by the Founder President Prof. Viranga Tillekeratne

Ms. Sandya Liyanarachchi invited Prof. Viranga Tillekeratne to address the 2024 AGM. Ms. Sandya gave a brief introduction and concluded by saying that everyone knows Prof. Tillekeratne for his decades of service to the Science Faculty of the University of Colombo and stated that he requires no lengthy introduction as his service and actions speak for themselves.

Prof. Tillekeratne started his speech by welcoming all in attendance from US and from Sri Lanka. He stated that he is addressing the meeting not only as the founder president but also a proud member of the CUFSAA family because of the exponential growth and phenomenal success the organization had for the past eight years. He reminder the attendees how CUFSAA started with a simple email to a handful of UoC alumni on Feb 2, 2016. He went on and provided a brief account of numerous projects initiated and successfully completed by CUFSAA over the past 8 years and how they benefited the Science Faculty and in certain cases how the country benefited. He concluded by inviting all alumni to get involve with CUFSAA activities and give something back to our beloved alma mater, Science Faculty.

CUFSAA Projects and Activity Updates by Project Leaders and Subcommittee Chairs; Facilitated by Dr. Vicumpriya Perera

Dr. Reshan Fernando invited the immediate past president, Dr. Vicumpriya Perera to facilitate the presentations on progress updates prepared by project leaders and subcommittee chairs. Dr. Perera expressed his profound appreciation for each and every person who contributed to the success of the projects and extended the heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors who provided in-kind and monetary contributions. Dr. Perera made references to CUFSAA's social media presence and multiple platforms managed by CUFSAA and asked everyone to visit the website and subscribe to social media platforms. Dr. Perera shared the slide deck that included fifteen projects and each project update consisted of three parts, (a) the need expressed or the help requested by the SciFac (b) CUFSAA's response and (c) impact of the project on students, faculty and the SciFac organization. Dr. Perera introduced each of the project leaders and invited each to speak about their project. When prompted by Dr. Perera, each project leader gave a comprehensive update of their project. About halfway through the presentations, Professor Upul Sonnadara, the Dean, Faculty of Science joined the meeting and Dr. Fernando temporarily paused the project presentations and invited Prof. Sonnadara to address the AGM. After Prof. Sonnadara concluded his speech, Dr. Perera resumed the project presentations.

Address by the Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, Professor Upul Sonnadara

Dr. Reshan Fernando introduced Professor Upul Sonnadara, the Dean, Faculty of Science of the University of Colombo and asked him to share few words with the CUFSAA members. On behalf of CUFSAA, Dr. Fernando expressed his sincere gratitude to Prof. Sonnadara for the partnership and cooperation he has extended to CUFSAA over the years and stated that many of CUFSAA projects and initiatives would not have come fruition without the full support of the Dean. Prof. Sonnadara started his speech by reminding everyone the history of the University of Colomo and described the activities and events that took place as part of the 100-year (Centennial) celebrations. He described the major milestones, accomplishments, and the outstanding progress the Science Faculty had during the past several decades. He described the new degree

programs including the external degree programs, new buildings, expansion of research programs, and the steady expansion of student population in detail. Prof. Sonnadara also mentioned the academic-industry partnerships and how they benefit the students and its impact on the country's economy. In conclusion, Prof. Sonnadara thanked CUFSAA for providing him the opportunity to address the AGM and provide an update on the current status of the Science Faculty, University of Colombo. Prof. Sonnadara also responded to several questions from the audience.

Concluding remarks

Dr. Reshan Fernando opened the floor for discussion and suggestions.

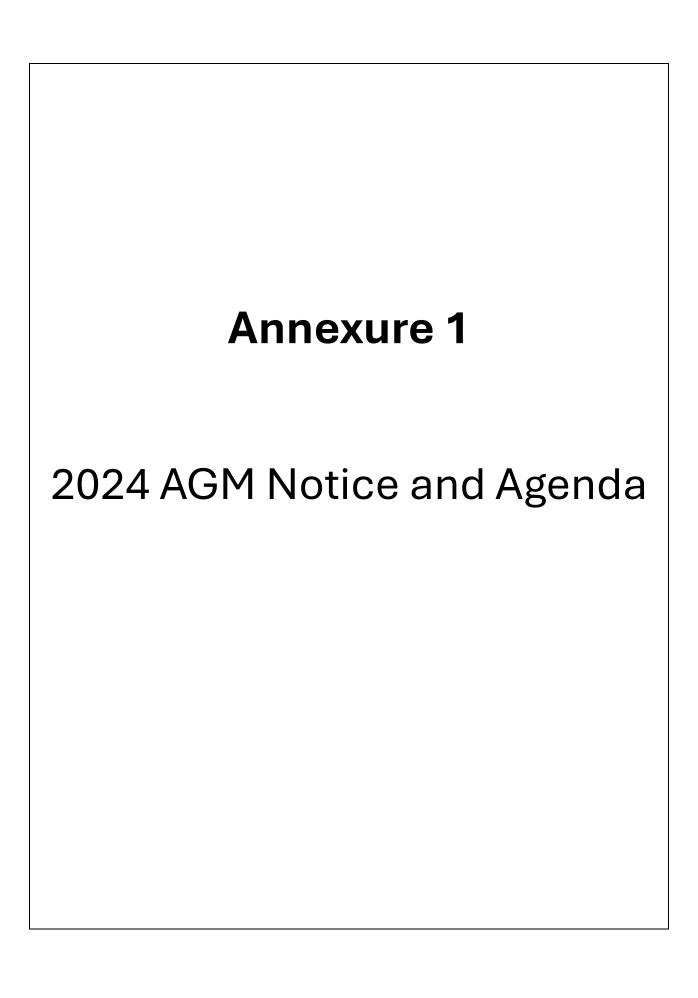
Many of the participants introduced themselves during the meeting.

Adjournment

With no other businesses to discuss, the AGM was adjourned at 9:55 pm Eastern Time. Thank you,

Respectfully Submitted, Dr. Wasundara Fernando (Secretary)

August 20, 2025.



Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA)

6th Annual General Meeting (AGM 2024)

November 04, 2024 at 8:00 – 9:00 pm Eastern Time

Via ZOOM

Zoom Link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86218282459?pwd=GzR70m4ZpbGfA2w9A3o8097LhNWrgf.1

Meeting ID: 862 1828 2459

Passcode: 415114

Dear CUFSAA Member,

The Executive Committee is very excited to announce the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and cordially invite you to attend the meeting.

The AGM will be held virtually via ZOOM on November 04, 2024 at 8:00pm - 9:00pm Eastern time

Please find the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) agenda, and related documents below. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Thank you!

CUFSAA Executive Committee

AGM Agenda

- 1. Welcome attendees and call the meeting to order
- 2. Approval of the agenda
- 3. Opening remarks and introduction of the Executive Committee by the President and President-Elect
- 4. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on September 02, 2023 presented by the Secretary and the Asst. Secretary.
 - O 2023 AGM Minutes
- 5. Annual Report (2023-2024) presented by the Secretary and the Asst. Secretary.
 - O Annual Report 2023-2024

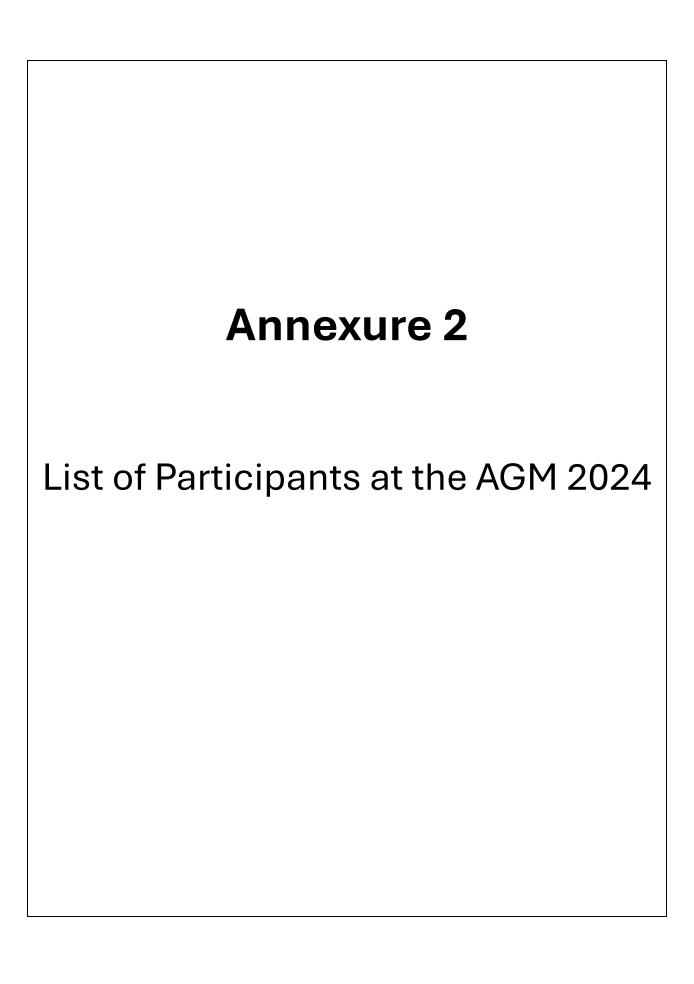
- 6. Treasurer's Report (August 2023 September 2024) presented by the Treasurer & the Asst. Treasurer
 - O Treasurer's Report August 2023 September 2024
- 7. Address by Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne, Founder President, CUFSAA.
- 8. Update from Prof. Upul Sonnadara, Dean Science Faculty, University of Colombo
- 9. Project and subcommittee updates
- 10. Open the floor for discussions
- 11. Any other business
- 12. Adjournment

Zoom Link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86218282459?pwd=GzR70m4ZpbGfA2w9A3o8097LhNWrgf.1

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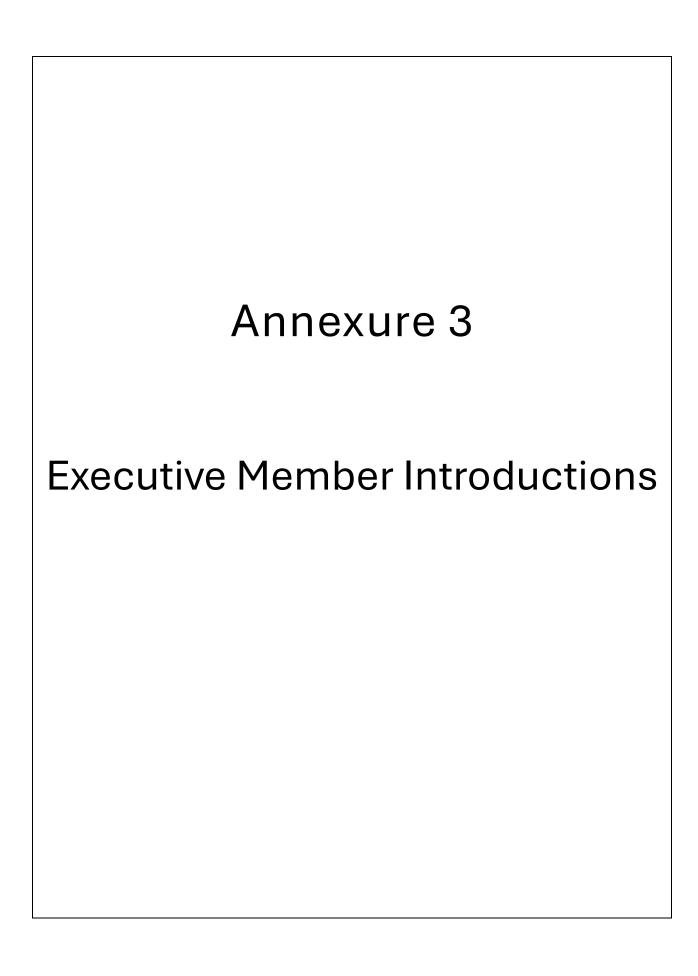
Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA) Annual General Meeting, November 04, 2024

The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA) was held online via Zoom on Monday, November 04, 2024, from 8:00 pm to 9:50 pm Eastern Time. The list of attendees is given below.

- 1. Ajith Waidyaratne
- 2. Anagi Balachandra
- 3. Angelo Gunasekara (*)
- 4. Binodh De Silva (*)
- 5. Chandana Goonatilleke (*)
- 6. Chandrasiri Jayakody (*)
- 7. Harshani Minudasa
- 8. Indika Mallawarachchi
- 9. Isuruka Weerasinghe (*)
- 10. Jayani Dissanayake
- 11. Jeeva Witanachchi (*)
- 12. Jehan Perera
- 13. Kalum palandage
- 14. Kirthi Premadasa (*)
- 15. Kumuditha Ratnavake (*)
- 16. Lalith Perera (*)
- 17. Limini Fonseka
- 18. LMV Tillekeratne (*)
- 19. Mahendra Minudasa (*)
- 20. Mailvaganam Mahendran

- 21. N. L. Somasiri
- 22. Nalin Samarasinha (*)
- 23. Neranjaka Jayarathne (*)
- 24. Oshadha Ranasinghe (*)
- 25. Ovini Mallawaraachchi
- 26. Pasan Kuruppu
- 27. Poornima Herath Mudiyanselage
- 28. Prabath Kuruwitaarachchi (*)
- 29. Ransirimal Fernando
- 30. Reshan Fernando (*)
- 31. Rupa Fernando
- 32. Sachith Dissanayake (*)
- 33. Sai
- 34. Sandya Liyanarachchi (*)
- 35. Sumedha Jayasena (*)
- 36. Unil Perera (*)
- 37. Upul Sonnadara
- 38. Vicumpriya Perera (*)
- 39. Viriththamulla Chamupathi
- 40. Wasundara Fernando (*)

^(*) CUFSAA Executive Committee Members, 2023-2025.





EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION Annual General Meeting

November 04, 2024 8:00 – 9:00 pm



Binodh De Silva
Vice president

Profession: Sr. VP, Bioanalytical and Biomarker Development, Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical Inc. Current Residence: Skillman, New Jersey, USA Professional Degree: Ph.D., Chemistry, Bioanalytical



Saliya De Silva Vice president

Profession: Professor, Montclair State University

Organic Chemistry.

Current Residence: River Edge, New Jersey, USA Professional Degree: Ph.D., Chemistry, University of

Minnesota.





Sachith Dissanayake
Vice president

Profession: Asst. Professor (Research), Dept. of

Mechanical Engineering, Univ of Rochester, Rochester,

NY.

Current Residence: Rochester, NY, USA

Professional Degree: Ph.D., Condensed Matter Physics



Reshan Fernando
President

Profession: Sr. Research Chemist / Principal

Investigator, RTI International

Current Residence: Cary, North Carolina, USA Professional Degree: Ph.D., Analytical Chemistry





Wasundara Fernando Secretary

Profession: Assistant Professor Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Acadia University, Nova Scotia,

Canada.

Current Residence: Nova Scotia, Canada Professional Degree: Ph.D., Cancer Biology



Chandana Goonetilleke
Past president

Profession: Associate Teaching Professor of

Mathematics, Rutgers University

Current Residence: Piscataway, New Jersey, USA Professional Degree: Ph.D., Algebraic Topology





Angelo Gunasekera
Executive Committee Member

Profession: Senior Director, Chembio Diagnostic

Systems Inc.; Associate Professor, Dept. of Chemistry

Stony Brook Univ.

Current Residence: Mount Sinai, New York, USA

Professional Degree: M.Sc and Ph.D.; Chemical Biology



Chandrasiri Jayakody
President-Elect

Profession: Director, R&D, Porex Technologies

Corporation.

Current Residence: Saginaw, Michigan, USA Professional Degree: M.Phil., Natural products;

Ph.D., Organic chemistry





Neranjaka Jayarathne Assistant Secretary

Profession: Postdoctoral Research Associate,

Clarkson University.

Current Residence: Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, USA Professional Degree: MSc. Applied Mathematics; Ph.D.,

Applied Mathematics



Sumedha Jayasena
Executive Committee Member

Profession: Vice President, Somagenics, Inc.

Current Residence: Thousand Oaks, California, USA

Professional Degree: Ph.D., Biochemistry





Prabath Kuruwita Arachchi Executive Committee Member

Profession: Manager, Technical Solutions, IFS North America

Current Residence: Apex, North Carolina, USA

Professional Degree: BSc., Mathematics and Physics



Sandya Liyanarachchi Treasurer

Profession: Research Scientist, Comprehensive Cancer

Center, Ohio State University.

Current Residence: Columbus, Ohio, USA

Professional Degree: MSc., Pure Mathematics; Diploma,

Statistics and Operational Research; MAS, Applied

Statistics





Mahendra Munidasa
Executive Committee Member

Profession: Retired Senior Data Scientist and former

Industrial Scientist

Current Residence: Vaughan, Ontario, Canada

Professional Degree: Ph.D., Physics



Lalith Perera
Executive Committee Member

Profession: Head, Computational Chemistry and

Molecular Modeling Core, NIEHS

Current Residence: Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA

Professional Degree: Ph.D., Physical Chemistry





Unil Perera

Executive Committee Member

Profession: Regents' Professor of Physics Department of

Physics and Astronomy, Georgia State University

Current Residence: Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Professional Degree: M.S. and Ph.D., Applied Physics



Vicumpriya Perera Immediate Past President

Profession: Associate Professor of Mathematics, Kent

State University

Current Residence: Cortland, Ohio, USA

Professional Degree: MSc., Mathematics; Ph.D., Pure

Mathematics





Asoka Pinnaduwage
Executive Committee Member

Profession: Senior Information IT/IS Specialist,

Department of National Defense, Canada Current Residence: Toronto, Canada

Professional Degree: BSc., Physics & Mathematics



Kirthi Premadasa
Executive Committee Member

Profession: Professor of Mathematics, University of

Wisconsin

Current Residence: Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Professional Degree: MSc., Pure Mathematics; Ph.D.,

Algebric Topology





Oshadha Ranasingha
Executive Committee Member

Profession: Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of

Massachusetts

Current Residence: Lowell, Massachusetts, USA

Professional Degree: MS, Ph.D., Physics



Kumuditha Ratnayake
Executive Committee Member

Profession: Engineer, TD Lithography Module, Intel

Corporation

Current Residence: Hillsboro, Oregon, USA Professional Degree: Ph.D., Chemistry





Nalin Samarasinha
Executive Committee Member

Profession: Senior Scientist, Planetary Science Institute

Current Residence: Tucson, Arizona, USA

Professional Degree: M.S., Astronomy; Ph.D., Astronomy



L.M.V. Tillekeratne Founder President

Profession: Professor, Department of Medicinal and

Biological Chemistry, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Toledo

Current Residence: Toledo, Ohio, USA

Professional Degree: D. Phil., Organic Chemistry





Gajaka Weerasinghe
Executive Committee Member

Profession: IT Leader, ProSight Specialty Insurance Current Residence: Malvern, Pennsylvania, USA Professional Degree: MSE, Software Engineering; MSIS, Information Science and Business Ethics

Management



Isurika Weerasinghe
Executive Committee Member

Profession: Ph.D. Candidate, University of North Carolina at

Chapel hill

Current Residence: Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA Professional Degree: B.Sc., Immunology and Integrative

Molecular Biology





Jeeva Witanachchi Assistant Treasurer

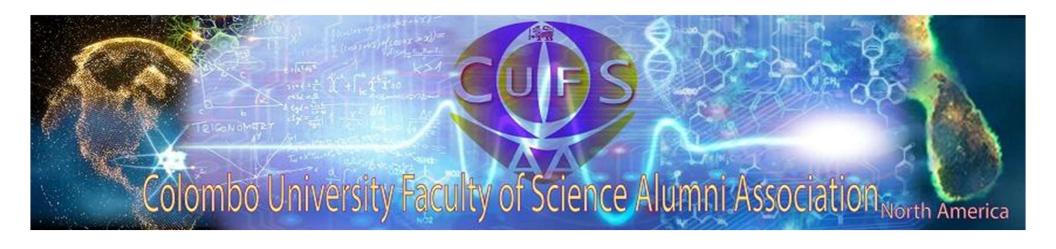
Profession: Software Engineer, Ford Motor Company

Current Residence: Novi, Michigan, USA

Professional Degree: BSc., Mathematics and Chemistry



Annexure 4 Project Progress Slides



Project and Subcommittee Updates Annual General Meeting

November 04, 2024

8:00 – 9:00 pm [Eastern Time]

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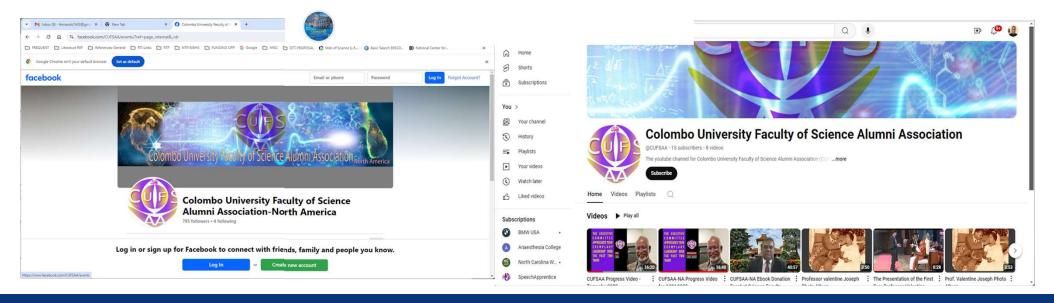


Item No.	Project	
1	Laboratory Equipment and Glassware Donation to Chemistry Department – led by Dr. Lakmal Botaju; present by Dr.	
	Chandrasiri Jayakody	
2	Laboratory Equipment Donation to Science Faculty/Chemistry Department – led by Dr. Anagi Balachandra; present by Dr.	
	Chandrasiri Jayakody	
3	Donation of two particle size analyzers and GC-TCD/FID to Science Faculty – led by Dr. Anagi Balachandra; present by Dr.	
	Chandrasiri Jayakody	
4	CUFSAA Membership and Member Services Project – by Dr. Binodh De Silva	
5	Physics Laboratory Equipment Donation Project: Phase I – by Dr. Sachith Dissanayake	
6	Physics Laboratory Equipment Donation Project: Phase II – by Dr. Sachith Dissanayake	
7	CUFSAA-NA Distinguished Speaker Series – by Dr. Sachith Dissanayake	
8		
9	CUFSAA Launch Pad Student Grant Program – by Dr. Kirthi Premadasa	
10	Professor V. Joseph Gold Medals and Memorial Scholarships – by Dr. Kirthi Premadasa	
11	Professor M.L.T. Kannangara Gold Medal and Memorial Scholarships – by Dr. Unil Perera	
12	Professor L.M.V. Tillekeratne Gold Medal and Honorary Scholarship – by Dr. Reshan Fernando	
13	Gold Medal for Special Degree Program in Computational Chemistry – by Dr. Reshan Fernando	
14	Faculty of Science, University of Colombo Centennial Book Project – by Dr. Chandana Goonetillleke	
15	North America Inter-University Alumni Softball Cricket Tournament – by Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke	

CUFSAA SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS







Laboratory Equipment & Glassware Donation to Chemistry Department



The Need

 Sri Lanka's economic situation has drastically limited funding and resources to universities. Exorbitant cost for chemicals, lab supplies, and equipment have adversely impacted the

laboratory courses across the SciFac and limited students' hands-on

experience in teaching and research laboratories.

CUFSAA Response

- Dr. Lakmal Boteju, a CUFSAA member initiated this project to collect, package, and ship a large collection of glassware, lab supplies, and analytical equipment to the department of chemistry.
- Shipment included two pallets and more than 9000 items
- The value if purchased new, estimated at US \$30,000 (Rs. 9 million)

Impact

- Many items were shared across numerous labs and facilitated the access to equipment across all departments
- Students can continue hands-on learning experience in teaching labs and engage in research projects in research labs.
- Academic staff got the opportunity to develop/design new experiments to enhance students learning experience using the new equipment.





Laboratory Equipment Donation to Science Faculty/Chemistry Department



☐ The Need

O Due to the high cost and the limitation of funds, SciFac was unable to keep up with the aging equipment in its chemistry labs or invest in new equipment to advance the science curriculum. This unfortunate situation has limited the student exposure to new and advanced techniques routinely used in undergraduate labs in developed countries and handicapped Sri Lankan students in their pursuit of higher education in North America, Europe and Australia.

☐ CUFSAA Response

 Dr. Anagi Balachandra, a CUFSAA member initiated this project and secured a large inventory of analytical chemistry equipment from her employer, Professor Parviz Soroushian.

 Shipment included more than 79 items; a collection of Spectroscopic, Electrochemical, and Gravimetric equipment.

The value of the shipment, if purchased new estimated at US \$70,000 (Rs. 20 million).

- Many items were installed and put into use immediately in chemistry laboratories to enhance student learning experience.
- O Students have opportunity to engage in advanced research projects using these equipment that were not possible before.
- Academic staff got the opportunity to develop/design new experiments to enhance students learning experience using the new equipment.



Donation of Two Particle Size Analyzers and GC-TCD/FID to Science Faculty



☐ The Need

O Due to the high cost and the limitation of funds, SciFac was unable to keep up with the aging equipment in its chemistry labs or invest in new equipment to advance the science curriculum. This unfortunate situation has limited the student exposure to new and advanced techniques and instrumentations.

☐ CUFSAA Response

- Dr. Anagi Balachandra, a CUFSAA member initiated this project and secured several key pieces of analytical instruments from her colleagues at DOW Chemical including Dr. Ronda Grosse, who serves on the Board of Directors of "Chemists Without Borders".
- Shipment included two particle size analyzers and a GC system with TCD and FID detectors.
- O The value of the shipment, if purchased new estimated at US \$20,000 (Rs. 6 million).

- Items will be installed in the chemistry lab and shared across numerous departments and facilitate the access to all students
- Students can continue hands-on learning experience in teaching labs and engage in research projects in research labs.
- Academic staff got the opportunity to develop/design new experiments to enhance students learning experience using the new equipment.



CUFSAA Membership and Member Services Project



The Need

It is of utmost importance for CUFSAA to reach out to past students, academic staff, and especially junior alumni of the UoC SciFac residing in the USA and Canada and encourage them to join the association and support our mission. New member recruitment will help CUFSAA grow its volunteer and donor base, train future leaders, and assist its members. CUFSAA needs to leverage the experience, expertise, and leadership positions of its senior members to facilitate the career development of its younger members.

☐ CUFSAA Response

- O Dr. Binodh de Silva, an executive member of the CUFSAA who chairs the Member Services subcommittee has worked with the subcommittee members and developed a strategic plan with specific aims to recruit new members, maintain the existing membership information current, and develop services and benefits for all members.
- CUFSAA continued to organize regional meetings to increase its name recognition, educate its members of CUFSAA activities, and facilitate networking among regional members. Additionally, CUFSAA has significantly expanded its social media presence via LinkedIn, FaceBook, Instagram, and its website to reach its members and informed its activities.

- Curated member database has helped CUFSAA update contact information for its members and ensure they are getting the organization updates.
- Helped newly arrived graduate students with relocation and settlement support, assisted prospective graduate students with their grad school applications, shared job opportunities and provided career advancement guidance to recent graduates and young professionals.

Physics Laboratory Equipment Donation Project: Phase I



☐ The Need

O Numerous equipment in Physics laboratory have aged beyond their productive life and replacement had been challenging due to high cost and lack of government funding. These equipment are essential for teaching fundamentals and for conducting undergraduate research. Professors had to scale back some critical lab experiments like Zeeman effect experiment, Determination of *e/m* ratio, Fabry-Perot interferometer, etc. which resulted in limiting the learning opportunities for special degree students.

☐ CUFSAA Response

- Dr. Sachith Dissanayake, a CUFSAA executive committee member set this project in motion and shepherded the project from the start to the finish line. He worked with CUFSAA sponsors, consulted with the faculty in Physics Department, sourced the equipment from multiple vendors, purchased and coordinated the shipment to UoC.
- O Shipment included five major apparatus and included Semiconductor thermogenerator, Millikan oil drop apparatus, Speed of Light Apparatus, HeNe Laser, and Right Angle Prism Mirror.
- The value of the shipment estimated at US \$6,000 (Rs. 1.8 million).

☐ Impact

O Physics department was able to incorporate the fundamental lab experiments using these equipment back into curriculum and students get the opportunity to expand their knowledge through hands on experiments once again and maintain the high standard of the special degree program.



Physics Laboratory Equipment Donation Project: Phase II

The Need

O The downturn of the economic condition in the country during the past decade has led to the dwindling of funds to the universities that are the pillars of higher education. The lack of resources/funding have adversely impacted university operations across the board but teaching and research laboratories had to bear the brunt. Not being able to keep up with chemicals and supplies and upgrade/replace aging and broken equipment have led to a point where unavailability of working equipment adversely impacted the standard of teaching and research at UoC.



☐ CUFSAA Response

- Or. Sachith Dissanayake, a CUFSAA executive committee member continued his efforts and was determined to address this situation to benefit Physics students for generations to come. He worked with all stakeholders who are generous, compassionate and wanted to remedy the situation. All needed equipment have been purchased and in the process of delivery to UoC. The list includes Magnetic susceptibility-quincke's method, B-H curve/magnetic hysteresis curve, Zeeman effect apparatus, Michelson & Fabry-Perot interferometer, Photoelectric Effect Apparatus and others.
- o The value of the shipment estimated at US \$14,000 (Rs. 4.2 million).
- We want to express our deepest gratitude to Dr. Upali Jayamaha, a loyal member of CUFSAA, for fully funding this project.

☐ Impact

Physics department was able to incorporate the fundamental and advanced lab experiments using these equipment back into curriculum and students get the opportunity to expand their knowledge through hands on experiments once again and maintain the academic excellence and high-quality research programs.



CUFSAA-NA Distinguished Speaker Series

☐ The Need

 To have a successful career in the current environment, students engaged in higher education must have an open mind to embrace

Vajira Abeysinghe	Building a career in Information Technology	Dec. 11, 2023
Prof. Sandun Perera	Enhancing your career options through data-driven or industry-focused research	Jan. 29, 2024
Prof. Gomika Udugamasooriya	Novel technologies to expedite the drug-lead discovery process	Feb. 27, 2024

a broader scientific knowledge in addition their specialized fields of studies. Generally, it takes a significant level of effort and resources to organize and coordinate external seminar programs. Specifically, for academic staff and program administrators in a country like Sri Lanka, this presents a daunting task. However, having access to specialized knowledge and expertise from outside industry professionals, receiving fresh perspectives, networking opportunities, and exposure to current trends in their fields, students at UoC can significantly enhance their learning and career preparedness.

☐ CUFSAA Response

o Dr. Sachith Dissanayake, a CUFSAA executive committee member, worked with a team of CUFSAA members and organized the "CUFSAA Distinguished Speaker Series", an external seminar program, exclusively for the benefit of the students at the SciFac of UoC. The program has been remarkably successful and well received by the students and faculty alike.

- The program provides undergraduates with access to specialized knowledge and expertise from academic and industry professionals outside their university.
- It has stimulated scientific communication between the students and the faculty and provided opportunities for collaboration within the UoC and with external researchers.
- The program has created a space for intellectual exchange that bridges different areas of expertise, contributing to the broader scientific discourse and driving innovation in all departments across the Science Faculty.

Faculty of Science, University of Colombo Centennial Book Project



☐ The Need

When the SciFac decided to celebrate One Hundred Years of Excellence of the Science Education, with the commemorative book, "An Odyssey through a Century: The Story of the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo", they were looking for a sponsor to help with the publishing costs.

☐ CUFSAA Response

 CUFSAA immediately recognized this momentous occasion and agreed to provide the financial support for the project.

☐ Impact

The SciFac was able to proceed with their plan without delay, develop the manuscript with the help of a select committee of academics with representation from all seven academic departments and the library of the Faculty of Science, guided by the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Senior Professor Upul Sonnadara. The book was officially launched on 21 December 2023 at a ceremony in the Chemistry Lecture Theater, one of oldest lecture halls renowned for its architectural grandeur. The book will bring an inspiration and encouragement to future generations of students and faculty alike.



Synthetic Chemistry and Drug Discovery Lab Project



☐ The Need

Chemistry department in the Faculty of Science, UoC has developed a strategic plan to improve and expand its research portfolio into advanced chemical synthesis and modern drug discovery technology. Synthesis of novel chemical compounds has immense commercial importance and expects to provide many opportunities for students and faculty to establish partnerships with the industry and make significant contributions to the economic developments of the country. Current facilities are inadequate to support this strategic development plan. The department has proposed to develop a fully equipped, advanced synthesis chemistry and drug discovery laboratory and reached out to CUFSAA for assistance.

☐ CUFSAA Response

 Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne, the founder president and a current executive committee member of CUFSAA has volunteered to champion this project on behalf of CUFSAA. He has wholeheartedly committed to this vision

and has been actively working with enthusiasm and dedication to make it a reality.

 Under the leadership of Prof. Tillekeratne, CUFSAA has launched one of the largest fundraising efforts to support this project and raised more than US \$30,000 to advance the project.

☐ Impact

Once completed, UoC will have one of the modern synthesis and drug discovery labs in the country with sophisticated instrumentation, ready to engage in cutting-edge research to advance the synthesis of new compounds, support the industry partners and contribute to the economy of the country.



CUFSAA Launch Pad Student Grant Program



☐ The Need

O As a result of recent downturn in Sri Lankan economy, high inflation, and exorbitant high cost of goods and services, a significant number of undergraduates at the Faculty of Science, UoC, are undergoing severe economic hardships, hindering their education. Many students had to take up multiple side jobs to make ends meet which has taken their focus away from the studies and subjected them to undue stress.

☐ CUFSAA Response

- O Dr. Kirthi Premadasa, a former vice president and an executive committee member of CUFSAA, has worked in partnership with the UoC, CUFSAA members and sponsors and created the Launch Pad, a premium student grant program especially design to support undergraduates having the gravest financial difficulties in continuing their education.
- During the first year of the program, thirty-six students were selected out of 189
 applicants across all six departments by a select committee representing all departments in Science Faculty.
- Each student will receive US \$360 (Rs. 108,000)/annually to lessen their financial burden. At present each student received the first six-month of US \$180 (Rs. 54,000).

- Special degree students who are most financial-distressed have received financial assistance to lessen their financial burden and allowed them once again to focus on their studies and reach their full potential.
- By helping to address their biggest worry and stress, CUFSAA was able to make a difference to improve mental health, well-being, and physical health of the students.

Professor V. Joseph Gold Medals and Memorial Scholarships



☐ The Need

O During our lifetime of learning, we come across teachers who are truly remarkable and they set us up for a lifetime of success and change our lives forever. It is our duty and responsibility to embrace and carry forward the legacies of these outstanding individuals. Professor Valentine Joseph was one of those influential professors of our time. He has dedicated more than four decades of his life to teaching, mentoring and student welfare and was an exceptional educator and a visionary to many generations of science and mathematics students.

☐ CUFSAA Response

- O Dr. Kirthi Premadasa, a former vice president and an executive committee member of CUFSAA, initiated this project, rallied former students, raised funds, and laid the foundation to immortalize late Professor Valentine Joseph's name through two scholarships and two gold medals.
- Each scholarship provides the recipient with US \$420 (Rs. 126,000) annually.

- The project helped us pay tribute to Professor Joseph and memorialize his legacy.
- It provides need-based scholarships to two economically disadvantaged students enrolled in the special degree program in Mathematics.
- The gold medals allowed us to recognize the academic excellence of two students for their outstanding performance in the fields of Computational Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

Professor M.L.T. Kannangara Gold Medal and Memorial Scholarships



☐ The Need

O During our lifetime of learning, we come across teachers who are truly remarkable and they set us up for a lifetime of success and change our lives forever. It is our duty and responsibility to embrace and carry forward the legacies of these outstanding individuals. Professor M. L. T. Kannangara was one of those influential professors of our time. He has dedicated more than four decades of his life to teaching, mentoring and student welfare and was an exceptional educator and a visionary to many generations of physics students.

☐ CUFSAA Response

- O Dr. Unil Perera, an executive committee member of CUFSAA, implemented and successfully completed this project with the help and support from former students of Prof. Kannangara which helps to honor and celebrate his service and memorialize his legacy through two scholarships and a gold medal.
- Each scholarship provides the recipient with US \$420 (Rs. 126,000) annually.

- The project helped us pay tribute to Professor Kannangara and memorialize his legacy.
- It provides need-based scholarships to two economically disadvantaged students enrolled in the special degree program in Physics.
- The gold medal allowed us to recognize the academic excellence of the most outstanding physics special student with first-class honors.



Professor L.M.V. Tillekeratne Gold Medal and Honorary Scholarship



☐ The Need

For many of us, the undergraduate education became the pivotal point that shaped our professional career and our future. Similarly, each one of us can name a handful of teachers who inspired, motivated, and encouraged us to achieve the best. It is upon us to embrace and carry forward the legacies of these outstanding individuals. Professor L.M.V. Tillekeratne (many of us lovingly call him with one syllable word, "Sir") is such person for many us. He is an outstanding teacher, a profound leader, a visionary, and an extraordinary mentor. He has served the UoC in numerous capacities and after his departure from UoC he continued to serve his alma mater through the CUFSAA, a non-profit organization he founded in 2016 with the mission to unite all UOC Faculty of Science alumni across the US and Canada under a common purpose to support our alma mater. He has served and shaped the organization as its founder president for the first two years and continues to play a vital role as an active member of the current executive committee.

☐ CUFSAA Response

- O His former students, friends, and family planned and successfully completed this project to honor and recognize his invaluable service and long-lasting impact through a scholarship and a gold medal.
- Each scholarship provides the recipient with US \$420 (Rs. 126,000) annually.

- O The project helped to honor and recognize Professor Tillekeratne's lifelong service to UoC and to many of us, his students.
- O It provides a need-based scholarships to one economically disadvantaged rising second year student.
- The gold medal allowed us to recognize the academic excellence of a student for outstanding performance in the field of Chemistry.

Gold Medal for Special Degree Program in Computational Chemistry



☐ The Need

All honors degree programs conducted within the Science Faculty of UoC have established one or more gold medals to recognize and honor students who have successfully completed the four-year program and demonstrated the highest academic excellence in the respective fields except the field of Computational Chemistry. The lack of a gold medal award in the computational chemistry was brought to the attention of CUFSAA by then Head of Chemistry, Prof. Ramani Wijesekera.

☐ CUFSAA Response

- A proposal to fund and establish a gold medal for computational chemistry was brought up and unanimously approved by the executive committee of CUFSAA with the fully support of the president.
- A gold medal was established within a short period and the award is given annually to recognize the student who has demonstrated the highest academic excellence and the best performance in the field of computational chemistry.

- All honors degree programs including the computational chemistry now have gold medals to recognize and reward the best performing student in each of their programs.
- O This effort ensured educational equity in all honors degree programs across the Science Faculty.

North America Inter-University Alumni Softball Cricket Tournament



☐ The Need

There are thousands of Sri Lankan university alumni living in US and Canada. However, there are only two formal alumni organizations, the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association (CUFSAA) and the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association USA (UPAA-USA) exists in North America. We strongly believe that true partnership and close working relationship between the two organizations could expand the services and benefits we provide to the Sri Lankan universities. Additionally, we could advocate and promote alumni form other universities (Moratuwa, Kalaniya, Sri Jayawardanapura, etc.) to establish formal alumni organizations to support their alma mater.

☐ CUFSAA Response

- CUFSAA partnered with the UPAA and jointly organized the first ever Inter-University Softball Cricket
 Tournament to promote social interactions between members and to lay a foundation for future collaborations
 between the two organizations.
- The event was held in Pennsylvania and was a huge success. Three teams University of Colombo,
 University of Peradeniya, and University of Moratuwa participated in the inaugural tournament.

- Collaborations between the two organizations will draw more sponsors and volunteers to support many more projects to benefit students, faculty and universities in Sri Lanka.
- Two organizations can work on relevant projects in concert where applicable to conserve resources and eliminate redundancy.

Regional Cricket Tournament [Contd.]











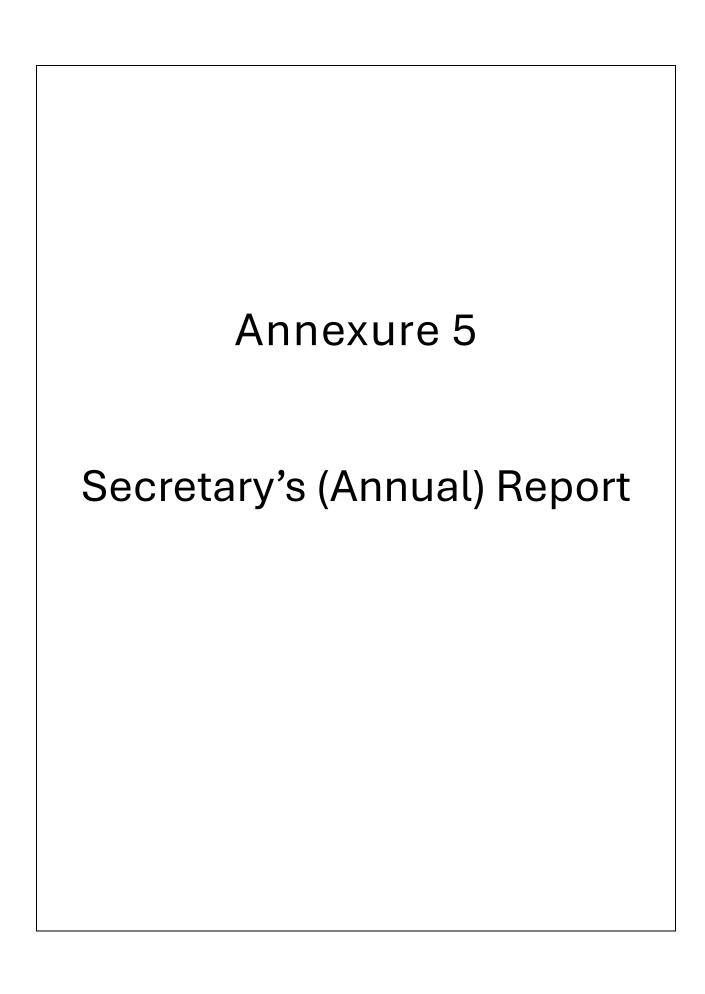




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THANK YOU!



Secretary's Report

Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA)

2023-2024 Year

Executive Summary

CUFSAA-NA Executive Committee was led by Dr. Reshan Fernando during this reporting period as its President who was elected at the Annual General Meeting held in person on September 02, 2023 at Toronto Grand Banquet and Convention Centre, 30 Baywood Road, Toronto ON M9V 3Y8 Canada. The current Executive Committee members of the Association are Binodh De Silva – Vice President, Saliya De Silva – Vice President, Sachith Dissanayake – Vice President, Wasundara Fernando – Secretary, L.C. Goonetilleke – Past President, Angelo Gunasekera, Chandrasiri Jayakody – President Elect, Neranjake Jayarathne – Assistant Secretary, Sumedha Jayasena, Prabath Kuruwitaarachchi, Sandya Liyanarachchi –Treasurer, Mahendra Munidasa, Lalith Perera, Unil Perera, Vicumpriya Perera – Immediate Past President, Asoka Pinnaduwage, Kirthi Premadasa, Oshadha K. Ranasingha, Kumuditha Ratnayake, Nalin Samarasinha, L.M.V. Tillekeratne – Founder President, Gajaka Weerasinghe, Isurika Weerasinghe, and Jeeva Witanachchi - Assistant Treasurer.

The following activities were completed, started, or are being continued during the reporting period of **August 01, 2023, to September 30, 2024.**

Completed projects:

1. Laboratory Equipment and Glassware Donation to Chemistry Department

Dr. Lakmal Boteju, a CUFSAA member, initiated this project to collect, package and ship a large collection of laboratory glassware, laboratory supplies, and laboratory equipment to the department of Chemistry. The shipment weighs over 1000 kg and has two large pallets containing over 9000 items. The shipment included various laboratory glassware, chromatographic columns and supplies, various syringes, UV lamps, solvent and vacuum pumps, magnetic stirrers, heating units, filter papers, culture/centrifuge tubes, balances, thermometers, desiccators, vortex apparatus, rotary evaporators, pH meters, gas regulators, spectrofluorometers and many other items. The project was completed successfully, and the items are being used by students across multiple science faculty laboratories. [December 2023 – January 2024]

2. Equipment Donation to the Department of Chemistry

This donation was made possible by CUFSAA member, Dr. Anagi Balachandra. She was able to arrange this equipment donation through her employer, Professor Parviz Soroushian, the owner of Metna Inc. This equipment donation included a total of 79 items. [April 2024 – August 2024]

3. CUFSAA Physics Equipment Project (Phase One)

Phase one of the Physics Equipment Project was completed in June 2024. All items were found to be in excellent condition and this equipment donation included 5 items that are essential to the Department of Physics. [October 2023 – June 2024]

4. CUFSAA Physics Equipment Project (Phase Two-Part 1 and 2)

Under the phase 2 - part 1 and 2 of the Physics Equipment Project, 3 equipment were purchased in August 2024 the shipment will be delivered to Colombo port within two months. [August 2024]

5. Centennial Book Project

CUFSAA donated the total cost of printing for the publication of a commemorative volume which was part of the centenary celebrations of the Faculty of Science. The executive committee decided to distribute the 100 copies among the CUFSAA members in lieu of a minimum \$100 donation, which will be directed towards the cost of printing of the books. [December 2023]

6. North America Inter-University Alumni Softball Cricket Tournament

The University of Colombo team won the first ever North American Inter-University Alumni Cricket Tournament at the inaugural North America Inter-University Alumni Softball Cricket Tournament, jointly organized by CUFSAA and the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association. This was held at Warminster Park, Pennsylvania, on the 22nd of September 2024.

On-going projects:

1. Donation of two (2) Particle Size Analyzers (Coulter) and one Gas Chromatograph (Agilent 6890) equipped with TCD/FID Detectors to the Science Faculty

Another equipment donation for the benefit of students and staff members of the Faculty of Science, CUFSAA is in the process of shipping out two Particle Size Analyzers (Coulter), one each for the Departments of Chemistry and Physics. In addition to Particle Analyzers, an Agilent 6890 Gas Chromatograph equipped with TCD and FID detectors is also included in the shipment for the Chemistry Department. Thanks to our member, Dr. Anagi Balachandra, Dr. Ronda Grosse of "Chemists without Boarders", these items were a donation from the Dow Chemical Company, Carrollton, Kentucky. Shipment will arrive in Colombo in November 2024. We thank Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke for arranging the shipment with Asanka Dharmakeerthi of TRICO.

2. Synthetic Chemistry and Drug Discovery Lab Proposal

Raising funds for the Synthetic Chemistry and Drug Discovery Lab is one of the newest initiatives of CUFSAA. This project is expected to be completed in two phases and CUFSAA will fund the phase 2 of the project. The full project is aimed to be completed by December 2025.

3. CUFSAA Launch Pad Student Grant Program

CUFSAA Launch Pad Grants Initiative which extends across the entire Faculty of Science is an extensive grant scheme initiated in the history of the University. This program strives to support undergraduates who are under grave financial difficulties who are selected by a cross-departmental committee. We are proud to report that we have successfully dispersed the first six-month installment of USD 180 to 36 students. [December 2023 – February 2024] Continuing the work, CUFSAA is now raising funds for the next phase of the scholarships.

4. CUFSAA Distinguished Speaker Series

Continuing CUFSAA Distinguished Speaker Series, the sub-committee organized and completed three seminars for the year 2023-2024. The Distinguished Speaker Series continues to be a popular project among the students in University of Colombo. [December 2023 – February 2024] With more informative seminars, CUFSAA will be continued next year as well.

5. Gold Medals and Scholarships

a. Professor MLT Kannangara Gold Medal and Memorial Scholarships

In memory of Prof. M L T. Kannangara, CUFSAA with approval from the University, established a gold medal named "MLT Kannangara Memorial Gold Medal" to be awarded at the university convocation to the Most Outstanding Physics Special Student with first-class honors. In addition, a scholarship named "Professor MLT Kannangara Memorial Scholarship" for students enrolled in the Special Degree Physics program was also established. Each year, the department will select one student, and that student will continue to receive the funding (currently equivalent to USD 35 per month in SLR) for two years, i.e., until graduation. This year, Professor MLT Kannangara Gold Medal was awarded to Mr. Buddhika Rasanjana.

b. Professor Valentine Joseph Gold Medals/Memorial Scholarship

In memory of renowned mathematician Professor Valentine Joseph, CUFSAA has been funding two gold medals to be awarded annually since 2020 to two students in mathematics special degree program. Faculty Board approval was received recently to award two memorial scholarships, LKR. 5,000/month each, in addition to the gold medal mentioned earlier. This year gold medal recipients are Mr. H N Bimsara and Ms. J P M Dilki.

c. Professor L.M.V. Tillekeratne Gold Medal and Scholarship facilitated by CUFSAA

A group of friends, well-wishers, and former students have come together and decided to establish a Gold Medal and a scholarship at the Science Faculty, UOC to honor Prof. Tillekeratne, one of the most beloved professors of our time. He is an outstanding teacher, a profound leader, a visionary, and an extraordinary mentor. He has dedicated his whole life to teaching, mentoring and student welfare. Prof. Tillekeratne made a profound impact on our lives when we were students at UOC and even today, after

more than three decades, he continues to have a tremendous influence and inspiration for us. As students, we have seen his passion, and it has inspired us to fully engage in our studies and continue to do well even after we left UOC and pursue our postgraduate studies. Furthermore, he continued to provide guidance to many of us throughout our journey, encouraging us to focus on the directions of our careers. This year recipient of Professor L.M.V. Tillekeratne Gold Medal is Ms. D.M.T.G. Dasanayake.

d. Gold Medal for Special Degree Program in Computational Chemistry

CUFSAA, in consultation with the Faculty of Science, has been sponsoring a gold medal in computational chemistry since 2020. The award was named the 'CUFSAA Gold Medal for Computational Chemistry' and shall be awarded annually from the academic year 2019/2020 for the best performance with either a First or Second Class (Upper Division) in the honours degree examination in Computational Chemistry. This year recipient of the Gold Medal for Special Degree Program in Computational Chemistry is Mr. S.P. Sandaruwan.

Detailed Report

In this report, we outline the activities of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA) completed or initiated during 2023-2024 as well as our ongoing projects. We articulate the future vision and aspirations of the association during the years ahead.

The 25-member "Fourth" Executive Committee of the Association was appointed at the fourth AGM held inperson on September 02, 2023, for the term 2023-2025. Dr. Reshan Fernando, was elected as the President of the Association. The executive committee continues to hold its regular monthly meetings *via* Zoom technology typically on the first Monday of each month at 9:00 pm Eastern Time to discuss the ongoing and future activities and current budget.

The association's online presence through its website (www.cufsaa.org OR www.cufsaa.com) and social media accounts on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/CUFSAA/), YouTube Channels (https://www.youtube.com/@CUFSAASpeakerSeries) and https://www.youtube.com/@CUFSAASpeakerSeries) and https://www.linkedin.com/company/cufsaa/) are being used for informing the membership of the association's achievements and ongoing projects, releasing regular newsletters, promoting fundraising activities, as well as to attract new members from all over North America under one umbrella.

At the end of the 2023-2024 year, we were able to initiate, complete, or continue to proceed forward with the following projects and programs.

Membership and Member Services Project

As of the end of September 2024, we have 559 members. We encourage past students, academic staff, and specifically junior alumni of the University of Colombo Science Faculty residing in the USA and Canada to join the association and support our mission by completing the online membership application available on our website: CUFSAA Membership Form.

The Membership Services Project, led by CUFSAA Vice President Dr. Binodh de Silva and the sub-committee, aims to: (a) Recruit new members (b) Keep existing membership information up to date (c) Develop services and benefits for members

New member recruitment will help CUFSAA grow its volunteer and donor base, train future leaders, and assist newly arriving students. Maintaining an updated membership database enables us to find volunteers for specific CUFSAA projects/sub-committees, mentor members, and provide advice on job opportunities. If you haven't done so yet, please take a moment to update your membership profile by following this link: Update Your Membership Profile.

We plan to offer services tailored to junior members (graduate students, fresh graduates, postdoctoral candidates, early-career professionals, etc.) including resume development/review, mock interviews, mentoring, internship/job opportunities, and postdoctoral opportunities.

Additionally, we offer relocation and settlement support for newly arriving students in the USA and Canada. Prospective graduate students can connect with CUFSAA members via University of Colombo faculty members. We extend our thanks to CUFSAA members who have recently assisted several students who arrived in the USA and Canada, with transportation, lodging, and settlement support

Our major projects and fundraising events for the reporting term 2023-2024 involved the following activities.

Projects and other activities:

1. Equipment Donation to the Department of Chemistry

The donation of a container full of scientific equipment to the Department of Chemistry, was completed. The 20-ft container of donated items shipped out on June 15, 2023, docked to the Colombo Port on Aug 3rd, 2023. If purchased directly, it would have cost over Rs. 20 million. The shipment was cleared with a full tax waiver with the approvals from the Department, Faculty, Vice Chancellor, UGC, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and Customs and arrived at the department on Tuesday, Aug 8th, 2023. This donation was made possible by CUFSAA member, Dr. Anagi Balachandra. She was able to arrange this equipment donation through her employer, Professor Parviz Soroushian, the owner of Metna Inc. These equipment (a total of 79 items), included an ultrasonic digital cell disrupter, a Fisher Scientific Sonic Dismembrator, Orbital Shakers, a Conductivity Meter/w stand & electrodes, Digital Lab Scale 6 Balances, a Vacuum evacuation cell, power supply units, a digital multimeter, BROOKFIELD DV-III Ultra Programmable Rheometers, viscometers, Electrochemical workstation, Beckman Microcentrifuge machine, Adhesion Tester, Contact Angle/Goniometer, OLYMPUS BX41M Light Microscopes, surface area analyzer, ElvaX X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer, UV Ozone Surface Processor, UV/Ozone generator, Rotary Evaporator, VWR Model Laboratory Vacuum Ovens, furnace, Benchtop Glove box, benchtop fume hood, hardness tester, chromatographic columns and many more. We take this opportunity to thank Prof. Nalin de Silva, Head of the Department of Chemistry, Prof. Upul Sonnadara, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Mr Chavin Perera/Chief Analytical Chemist, Ms. Vajira Balasubramaniam/Personal Assistant to the Chairman UGC and other faculty members who were involved to get all the approvals in time. Also, many thanks to Dr. Anagi Balachandra, Prof. Parviz Soroushian, Mr. Dhammika Welipitiya, Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne, Dr. Damith Thilakarathna, Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody for getting the items ready for shipping, Mr. Gamini Jayawardena (Science Faculty Alumni), Deputy Director of Customs for his invaluable advice throughout the process, and Mr. Dharshana Perera of DP Distributing Enterprises, LLC for making the shipping arrangements for CUFSAA.

2. Laboratory Equipment and Glassware Donation to the Chemistry Department

The laboratory glassware and equipment donation to the Department of Chemistry, University of Colombo arranged by former CUFSAA Executive Board member Dr. Lakmal Boteju and his family. The project was

completed in January 2024. This Shipment was two pallets weighing over 1000 kg containing over 9000 items. The shipment included various laboratory glassware, chromatographic columns and supplies, various syringes, UV lamps, solvent and vacuum pumps, magnetic stirrers, heating units, filter papers, culture/centrifuge tubes, balances, thermometers, desiccators, vortex apparatus, rotary evaporators, pH meters, gas regulators, spectrofluorometers and many other items. The estimated value of these items anew is well over US \$30,000.

Many people from the US and Sri Lanka have contributed to the successful completion of this project. All glassware was carefully packaged to avoid any breakage during shipment while extra care was taken to repackage vibration sensitive equipment like analytical balances. The packaging was conducted over multiple days and everything was done perfectly by Dr. Boteju and his family members. Later, we learned that all items arrived at the Chemistry Department safely without any significant breakages, largely due to the outstanding packaging work done by Dr. Boteju and his family. Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke and Ms. Sandya Liyanarachchi worked tirelessly to arrange the shipment from New Jersey to Colombo, Sri Lanka. They worked closely with Mr. Asanka Dharmakeerthi of Ceylon Shipping Inc, NY (a member of TRICO Group) who helped with the paperwork and coordinated the shipment and its timely arrival in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The shipment was cleared from customs with prior approvals from Dean/Science, Head/Chemistry VC, Senate, Secretory, Education Ministry, in Sri Lanka. CUFSAA sincerely thanks Dr. Lakmal Boteju and his family for this generous donation and their hard work. CUFSAA would like to express our sincere gratitude to Prof. Upul Sonnadara, Dean, Faculty of Science and Prof. Nalin de Silva, HOD, Department of Chemistry for making arrangements for custom clearance and Mr. Gamini Jayawardena (Science Faculty Alumni), Deputy Director of Customs for his invaluable advice throughout the process.

This is truly a great gift to the Synthetic and Drug Discovery Lab as well as other teaching and research laboratories of the Chemistry Department at the University of Colombo. We have no doubt that Science Faculty students and researchers will benefit and continue to utilize these equipment and supplies for decades.

3. CUFSAA Physics Equipment Project (Phase One)

The Phase One of the Physics Equipment Project successfully cleared all hurdles, and the equipment was delivered to the University of Colombo's Physics Department on June 26, 2024. We want to highlight the collaborative success and extend our gratitude to everyone involved.

Special thanks to Prof. Chandana Jayaratne, whose support and presence were instrumental in getting the necessary approvals. Along with Mr. Gamini Jayawardena who was already on-site at the Trico Warehouse, we were able to ensure a smooth clearance at customs. We thank the generosity of our Phase 1 donors, the CUFSAA subcommittee members and our supporters, Sachith Dissanayake, Chandana Goonetilleke, Saliya De Silva, Sandya Liyanarachchi, Chandrasiri Jayakody for making this possible.

All items were found to be in excellent condition (as inspected by faculty members, Prof. Chandana Jayaratne, Prof. I.M.K. Fernando and Dr. Kanishka Wijayaratne) and were safely delivered to the Physics Department. We are pleased to report that the equipment is now benefiting students.

Phase One equipment included 1. Semiconductor thermogenerator – Seebeck effect 2. Millikan Oil Drop apparatus 3. Speed of Light Apparatus 4. HeNe Laser, 632.8 nm, 10 mW, Polarized (THOR Labs) and 5. Right Angle Prism Mirror, Protected Gold, L = 50.0 mm (THOR Labs).

4. CUFSAA Physics Equipment Project (Phase Two-Part 1 and 2)

Phase Two- Part 1 included the following equipment directly ordered on August 31, 2024, from Holmarc Opto-Mechatronics, Ltd, Kochi, Kerala, India, (a) Magnetic Susceptibility-Quincke's Method (b) B-H Curve/Magnetic Hysteresis Curve. The shipment is expected to be delivered to Colombo port on Oct 12, 2024. Again, we thank the generosity of our Phase 2 donor, the CUFSAA subcommittee members and our supporters, Sachith Dissanayake, Chandana Goonetilleke, Saliya De Silva, Sandya Liyanarachchi, Chandrasiri Jayakody for their support.

Many thanks to Prof. Upul Sonnadara, Dean/Science, Prof. Chandana Jayaratne, HOD/Physics, Prof. I.M.K. Fernando and Dr. Kanishka Wijayaratne for their invaluable support.

Phase Two-Part 2 items which include (a) Zeeman Effect Apparatus (b) Michelson & Fabry-Perot Interferometer and (c) Photoelectric Effect Apparatus and the order has already been placed with the United Scientific, Canada in July 2024. Items are being custom-manufactured and will be available in late October 2024 for shipment. Again, many thanks to our donor for his generosity and continuous support for CUFSAA.

5. Centennial Book Project

During 2022-2023 CUFSAA donated the total cost of printing for the publication of a commemorative volume which was part of the centenary celebrations of the Faculty of Science. This centennial volume chronicles the faculty's 100-year odyssey of academic eminence.

The book was launched on December 21st, 2023, at the University of Colombo. CUFSAA Vice President Saliya de Silva, together with committee members Asoka Pinnaduwage, Unil Perera, and Angelo Gunasekera represented our organization.

In recognition of the invaluable support extended by CUFSAA towards the project, the faculty provided CUFSAA with 100 copies. We were able to ship these to the USA in January of 2024 thanks to the generous support received from Mr. Shantha Athalage. The committee decided to distribute the 100 copies among the members in lieu of a \$100 donation, which will be directed towards the cost of printing. Currently, about 100 copies have been distributed.

6. CUFSAA Distinguished Speaker Series

CUFSAA initiated the Distinguished Speaker Series in 2022 that aims to advance/enhance vs. empower the scientific knowledge of the students. Although the seminars are primarily focused on the students and early career researchers in the Faculty of Science University of Colombo, the seminar series is available to all the CUFSAA members publicly through the CUFSAA YouTube channel and Facebook page. This project shares the findings of cutting-edge research as well as knowledge from experts in various disciplines including guidance on career development.

CUFSAA continued this Series in 2023/2024 and organized three (3) talks delivered by distinguished speakers. This series was open to the students in the University of Colombo faculty of science and other universities in an effort to collaborate to benefit all students, faculty and other members.

Talk 08: Vajira Abeysinghe – Building a career in Information Technology – December 11, 2023.

Talk 09: Prof. Sandun Perera – Enhancing your career options through data-driven or industry-focused research – *January 29, 2024.*

Talk 10: Prof. Gomika Udugamasooriya – Novel technologies to expedite the drug-lead discovery process – February 27, 2024.

The organizing sub-committee would like to thank everyone for attending the seminars and is looking forward to your continuous support. We welcome suggestions and comments on specific topics or speakers. Please reach out to us at speaker-series@cufsaa.org. For more information visit http://www.cufsaa.com/speaker-series/.

7. CUFSAA Launch Pad Student Grant Program

The Launch Pad is a premium student grant program created to support undergraduates having the gravest financial difficulties in continuing their education. The awardees are selected by a committee representing all departments in the Science Faculty. We are thrilled to announce that we have successfully disbursed the first six-month installment of USD180 to all 36 students. This is a significant milestone in our CUFSAA Launch Pad Grants initiative, which initiated one of the most extensive grant schemes in the Faculty of Science's history covering all departments.

In response to this request, the faculty received 189 applications, demonstrating the dire situation, at which time the faculty was confronted with the daunting task of shortlisting these applications with in-person interviews ensuring that the most financially distressed thirty-six students were selected.

We are immensely grateful to our donors and faculty committee members for their unwavering support and dedication, without which this initiative would not have been possible.

We thank ExCo member/ Assistant Treasurer Jeeva Witanachchi for organizing live performances from Sri Lankan legends, රත්වල බලකාය on September 7, 2024, to support fundraising efforts towards this program.

Many thanks to ExCo member Dr. Kirthi Premadasa and the Launch Pad sub-committee for their unwavering commitment to this project.

8. Synthetic Chemistry and Drug Discovery Lab Proposal

Think of the days when you carried out your laboratory experiments or research projects with limited and aged equipment and facilities but still received a good education which paved the path for your success. With those limited facilities, the department impart quality education that made you the successful person you are today!

The Department of Chemistry has initiated a project to set up a Synthetic Chemistry and Drug Discovery Laboratory and CUFSAA has agreed to fund the phase 2 of the project. This phase will fund the basic lab infrastructure consisting of fume hoods, chemical resistant benches, Schlenk line, solvent purification system, rotary evaporators, balances, ovens, hotplates, stirrers, and other general lab equipment which involves upgrading the basic laboratory construction will be carried out by the University and the Department of Chemistry. CUFSAA plans to implement phase 2 of the project in three stages. Our immediate goal is to raise USD 35,000 for the first stage of phase 2. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, we have so far raised over USD 30,000 (including a USD 5,000 pledge) towards this goal. In addition, we have already provided some of the equipment listed above through Dr. Anagi Balachandra's donation. Phase 1 of the project is expected to be completed by the University by the end of 2024, after which CUFSAA will undertake the implementation of the first stage of phase 2. The target date of completion will be December 2025.

9. Professor MLT Kannangara Gold Medal and Memorial Scholarships

Professor MLT Kannangara, Emeritus Professor of Physics and former head of the Department of Physics at the University of Colombo (UoC), began his undergraduate studies at UoC in 1943 and earned his BSc in Physics and was appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in 1948. He obtained his PhD from the University of Manchester in 1953 working on Cosmic Ray Physics. He spent several sabbaticals including one at the well-known Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University. He spent his entire academic career (1943-1990) at University of Colombo, eventually becoming head of the department (1978-1984), retiring as a Senior Professor of Physics in 1990.

Against all odds, Professor Kannangara led a productive research program throughout his career. He published two articles in the Journal of Geophysical Research (a leading journal on geophysics) with his colleague, late Professor PCB Fernando, on geomagnetic micro-pulsations and frequency spectrum and another single-author article in the same journal on polarization characterizations of micro pulsations from observations taken close to the geomagnetic equator, which runs through Sri Lanka. Returning from a sabbatical at the Uppsala University in Sweden, he was instrumental in initiating an extremely successful international research collaboration with the Uppsala University colleagues in Sweden through the International Science Program (ISP), which was the first ISP program in Sri Lanka making the pathway and infrastructure to award local PhDs in physics from University of Colombo Physics, benefitting many current and previous members of the University of Colombo Department of Physics. Professor MLT Kannangara was elected President of SLAAS Section E in 1963 and became a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, London in 1971. He served as the Chief Examiner for the GCE A/L Physics exam in 1974-75 and was a founding Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka in 1977. Known as an excellent teacher, he meticulously prepared lecture notes, emphasizing physics principles, error analysis, and the joy of learning. Taking great care to prepare his own lecture notes, updating often eagerly pointing out the underlying physics, he emphasized the importance of assessing the relative contributions from different physical parameters to a particular phenomenon. Reflecting on his contributions to science and education in Sri Lanka, University of Colombo awarded him an Honorary DSc in 1994.

In memory of Prof. MLT Kannangara, CUFSAA, with university approval, established the MLT Kannangara Memorial Gold Medal for the Most Outstanding Physics Special Student with first-class honors, awarded at convocation. The first recipient in 2022 was Ms. Limini Fonseka who is pursuing her PhD at University of Virginia in Physics. The 2023 award went to Mr. Buddhika Rasanjana who received the award at the 2024 October convocation. The Gold Medal winner selection will continue yearly from each batch from the endowment established at the University by CUFSAA. Additionally, the MLT Kannangara Memorial Scholarship was created for Special Degree Physics students. One student is selected annually and receives funding for two years. Currently, there are two active scholarship recipients at University of Colombo Physics. This will continue as long as the funding is available.

10. Professor Valentine Joseph Gold Medals/Memorial Scholarships

Since 2020, in memory of renowned mathematician Professor Valentine Joseph, CUFSAA has been funding an annual gold medal for a student with an outstanding performance in the computational mathematics special degree. CUFSAA is proud to report that starting in 2024, a second gold medal will be awarded to a student excelling in Applied Mathematics. In addition, since 2020, in line with the compassionate spirit of the late Professor V. Joseph, two scholarships have also been awarded to students in grave economic need in the

mathematics department. The scholarships pay US\$ 35/= per month. This year's gold medal recipients are Mr. H N Bimsara and Ms. J P M Dilki.

11. Professor LMV Tillekeratne Gold Medal and Honorary Scholarship

Prof. LM Viranga Tillekeratne was born in a small village, Singharamulla, in Kelaniya. He completed his primary education in Dharmaloka Vidyalaya, and secondary education in Ananda College, Colombo 10. In 1965, he started his undergraduate career at the University of Ceylon. In 1966, the University of Ceylon- Colombo Campus started offering a special degree program in Chemistry, and he was one of the nine students in the first batch of that special degree program. He graduated from the University of Colombo in 1969 and received the Science Scholarship for best results in the final examination in the Faculty of Science. In 1971, he received the Commonwealth Scholarship to Oxford University. After completing his doctorate degree, he returned to Sri Lanka in 1975 and joined the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science at the University of Colombo as a Probationary Lecturer and later promoted to a full professor and assumed the Chair of Organic Chemistry position in 1984. He served the University in numerous capacities including the Head of the Chemistry Department, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Acting Vice Chancellor, and the Chairman of the Sports Advisory Board of the University. Currently, Prof. Tillekeratne is serving as a faculty member of the Department of Medicinal and Biological Chemistry, at the University of Toledo, USA. He is focusing on the research areas related to anticancer agents as well as neuroprotective agents (collaborative research) and his research group has obtained several patents from their research, and he has received numerous awards and recognition for his research. Even after his departure from UOC Prof. Tillekeratne continued to serve his alma mater through the CUFSAA, a non-profit organization he founded in 2016 with the mission to unite all UOC Faculty of Science alumni scattered throughout the US and Canada under a common purpose to support our alma mater, Faculty of Science, UOC. He has served and shaped the organization as its founder president for the first two years and continues to play a vital role as an active member of the current executive committee. A group of friends, wellwishers, and former students have come together and decided to establish a Gold Medal and a honorary scholarship at the Science Faculty, UOC to honor Prof. Tillekeratne, one of the most beloved professors of our time. He is an outstanding teacher, a profound leader, a visionary, and an extraordinary mentor. He has dedicated his whole life to teaching, mentoring and student welfare. Prof. Tillekeratne made a profound impact on our lives when we were students at UOC and even today, after more than three decades, he continues to have a tremendous influence and inspiration for us. As students, we have seen his passion, and it has inspired us to fully engage in our studies and continue to do well even after we left UOC and pursue our postgraduate studies. Furthermore, he continued to provide guidance to many of us throughout our journey, encouraging us to focus on the directions of our careers. Prof. Tillekeratne is an amazing human being and an amazing professor. He has always been very generous with his time and instrumental in opening doors for his students. His students embraced his continuous encouragement, guidance, and support throughout their student life and well passed into their adult lives. In 2022, we launched the Prof. LMV Tillekeratne Gold Medal for Chemistry and the Honorary Scholarship. This is one of the few scholarships available to students who are in the second year of their undergraduate program. We partnered with the Dean's Office and the Department of Chemistry to provide a need-based scholarship for a second-year student who has successfully completed the first-year coursework and is in the gravest economic need. In 2023, the gold medal was awarded to Ms. D.M.T.G. Dasanayake during the convocation held on 4th October 2024 and one student received the scholarship.

12. Gold Medal for Special Degree Program in Computational Chemistry

The award was named the 'CUFSAA Gold Medal for Computational Chemistry' and shall be awarded annually from the academic year 2019/2020 for the best performance with either a First or Second Class (Upper Division) in the Honours degree examination in Computational Chemistry. In 2023 convocation held on 4th October 2024, the gold medal was awarded to Mr. S.P. Sandaruwan.

13. North America Inter-University Alumni Softball Cricket Tournament

The inaugural North America Inter-University Alumni Softball Cricket Tournament, jointly organized by CUFSAA and the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association, was held at Warminster Park, Pennsylvania, on the 22nd of September 2024. Three teams—University of Colombo, University of Peradeniya, and University of Moratuwa—participated in the inaugural tournament. The tournament was organized in two stages. A Masters League geared towards senior cricketers where each team included a minimum of six players aged 50 and over, and a Championship League to decide the Inter-University championship. A total of 148 individuals, consisting of alumni and their family members, participated in this event.

The University of Colombo team won the first ever North American Inter-University Alumni Cricket Tournament. The team members were: Neranjaka Jayaratne (captain), Ramesh Gunaratna, Sachith Dissanayake, Varuna Mallawarachchi, Choolantha Rajapaksha, Gayan Premaratne, Kalhara Manikdiwela, and Amal Kaluarachchi. The University of Colombo players also won the awards for Best Batsman (Sachith Dissanayake), Best Bowler (Neranjaka Jayarathne), and Most Valuable Player (Choolanatha Rajapaksa). We are grateful to Dr. Lakmal Boteju who arranged several practice sessions for the team.

This tournament was more than just a cricket match; it was a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with your university alumni, make new friends, and have fun in a vibrant and engaging social event while raising some funds for the association programs. Whether you're a seasoned cricket player or just want to be a part of the excitement, we welcome teams from all Sri Lankan university alumni associations to join us in 2025.

Ear-marked Funds and Programs

1. CUFSAA Student Assistant Account (The Benevolent Fund)

The Emergency Fund to help UOC Science Faculty Students was initially started in 2016 to help students affected by the unexpected flooding. This effort was strengthened by establishing an official Emergency fund to support Science Faculty students who are in need of help in emergency situations. An amount up to Rs. 25,000 per student can be disbursed from this account as the need arises (without prior consultation with CUFSAA). Financial assistance must be related to the student's educational needs either for undergraduate education assistance or for higher education assistance. This fund was later renamed as the Benevolent Fund. This fund is a stationary fund of the association.

2. Mentoring Program

CUFSAA created this program early in its formation and is continuing to this fiscal year. It was established to provide guidance and advice to Sri Lankan graduates who are interested in higher education in the United States and Canada as well as students who have recently graduated from the United States and Canada and looking for employment opportunities. Many students were supported during the 2023-2024 year through our volunteer services.

3. Take a Book Program

Take a Book Program is another successful project launched by CUFSAA through the generosity of our members. This program has supplied numerous textbooks to the Faculty of Science. Under this program, CUFSAA members who are visiting Sri Lanka for vacations take a book with them and hand it over to the Dean of the Faculty of Science. This program was also established early in its formation of the Association. Program did not continue during this fiscal year.

Future Vision

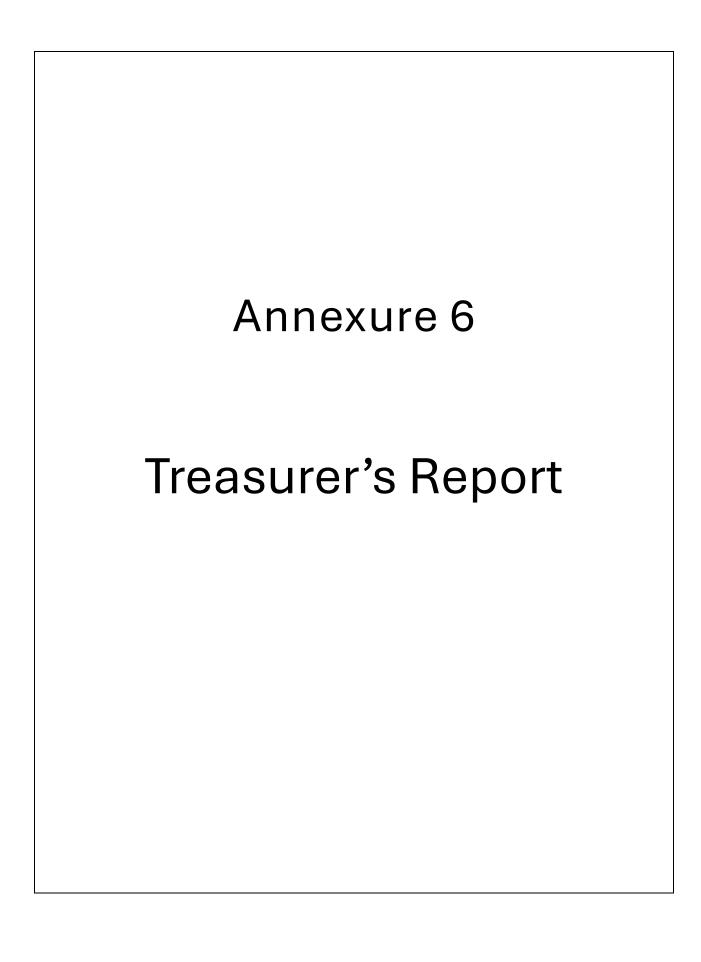
Today, we are proudly celebrating eight successful years of CUFSAA since its inception. As in previous years, we have successfully completed many projects during the past year. All these activities have benefited the students, staff and faculty of the Science Faculty, University of Colombo. We express our sincere gratitude to our loyal members who have been instrumental and provided their unwavering support throughout this period.

With eight remarkable years of progress, CUFSAA is poised to continue its mission to improve the academic life of students, aspire them to achieve the highest academic excellence, and help them reach their full potential through many projects and programs. Furthermore, CUFSAA will continue its partnership with the resolute faculty and staff of the Science Faculty and provided resources to further their commitment to providing a first-class education to the students of Science Faculty and shape the minds of next generation leaders and entrepreneurs for a better tomorrow.

In order for us to continue our mission and to grow and expand our association, we encourage all alumni to join CUFSAA and get involved with its activities. We need volunteers to lead our projects, champions to chair our sub-committees and many others to play active roles in the association. We respectfully ask that you get involved with CUFSAA in whatever capacity you can and be generous with your time, talent, and treasure. Finally, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the membership for their active participation and generous contributions that helped us achieve the goals of the association to benefit our Alma Mater.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted, Dr. Wasundara Fernando (Secretary), Dr. Neranjake Jayarathne – Assistant Secretary / CUFSAA https://www.cufsaa.com



CUFSAA account summary for the time period between 2023 AGM -2024 AGM (August 01, 2023 - September 30, 2024)

Description	Opening Balance on August 01, 2023	Income & Donations	Expenses	Closing Balance on September 30, 2024
Benevolent Fund	\$1,056.55			\$1,056.55
General Fund	\$7,579.59	\$25,121.13	-\$15,061.92	\$17,638.80
Medical Supplies Fund	\$913.45			\$913.45
Prof V Joseph Gold medal and Scholarship Fund	\$8,029.90		-\$1,260.00	\$6,769.90
Prof LMV Tillekeratne Gold medal and Scholarship Fund	\$6,949.75	\$2,000.00	-\$630.00	\$8,319.75
Prof MLT Kannangara Gold medal and Scholarship Fund	\$2,978.17	\$1,886.41	-\$1,260.00	\$3,604.58
Remote Learning Fund	\$1,181.19			\$1,181.19
100 Year book	-\$3,444.26	\$2,258.30	-\$3,150.15	-\$4,336.11
Physics Equipment	\$3,000.28	\$6,270.42	-\$12,440.39	-\$3,169.69
Synthesis Lab		\$25,331.18		\$25,331.18
CUFSAA Launch Pad Grants		\$19,120.19	-\$6,480.00	\$12,640.19
Total	\$28,244.62	\$81,987.63	-\$40,282.46	\$69,949.79

Account Summary

Opening Balance on Aug. 01, 2023	\$28,244.62	Bank & PayPal Accounts Balances on Sept 30, 2024		
Closing Balance on Sept 30, 2024	\$69,949.79 Bank of America Account Balance		\$69,483.24	
		Paypal Balance	\$466.55	
		Balance as of Sept 30, 2024	\$69,949.79	