

TAMASHA 2025

DETROIT
MI, USA



A DINNER DANCE AND A FUNDRAISER

REGENCY MANOR & BANQUET CENTER

25228 W. 12 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034

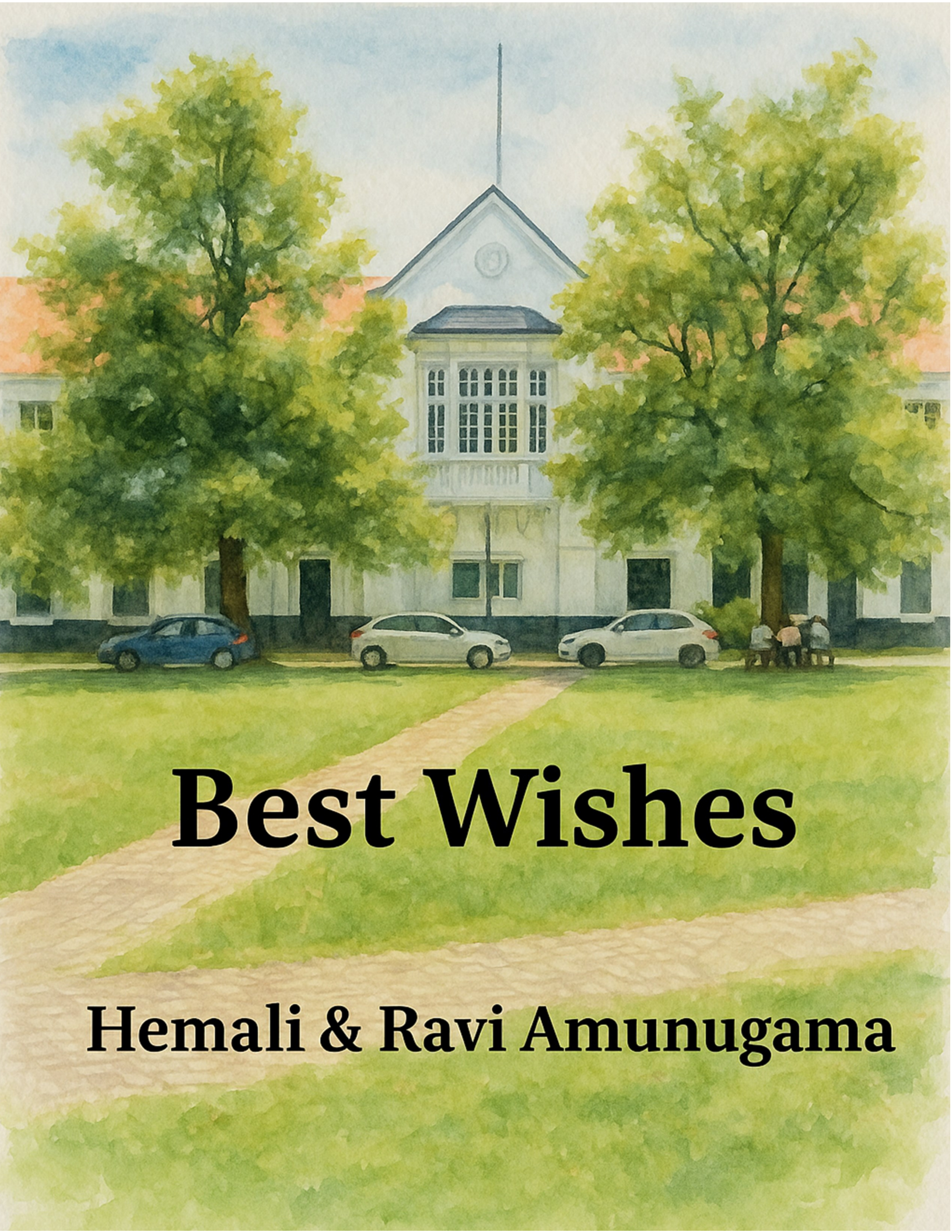


Saturday August 30, 2025
6 PM - 12 AM

FOURTH FUND-RAISING EVENT FOR UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO - SCIENCE FACULTY

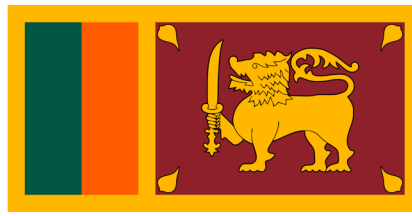


ORGANIZED BY COLOMBO UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF SCIENCE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA (CUFSAA-NA)



Best Wishes

Hemali & Ravi Amunugama



Tamasha 2025

The fourth get together of
Colombo University Science Faculty
Alumni of North America

August 30th, 2025

at

Regency Manor & Banquet Center

25228 W 12 Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48034

CUFSAA-NA - Mission

Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association of North America (CUFSAA-NA, CUFSAA) is formed exclusively to foster, maintain and support a mutually beneficial relationship among the alumni of the Colombo University Science Faculty living in North America, the University of Colombo, and the community at large. It is organized exclusively for social, charitable, and educational purposes.

A Beacon of Hope for a Faculty and the Nation

CUFSAA was established to support the Faculty of Science of the University of Colombo. However, the last five years have been the darkest times for Sri Lanka, going through a devastating pandemic and its worst economic collapse. The ever-grateful CUFSAA membership saved many lives of Sri Lankans in its darkest hour by donating a staggering US\$160,154 worth medical equipment and essential medicine to hospitals in Sri Lanka including some of the remotest during the COVID Epidemic. The economic plight created a further crisis in the hospital system and CUFSAA rose to the challenge again by donating an additional US\$20,004 worth of medical supplies during the crisis. These donations show how CUFSAA, started as a simple alumni organization, can be a beacon of hope for a struggling nation. During all these times, CUFSAA did not forget science faculty students at the University of Colombo and donated Laptops worth US\$11,722 to them so they could adjust to the remote learning format and continue their education.

CUFSAA, during the last five years, made many big-ticket infrastructure contributions to the Faculty of Science to help them provide state-of-the-art science education to the next generation of students. These contributions included ten classic experimental apparatus (Physics, US\$ 23,800), two high-performing computers (Plant Science, US\$4,529), ten bright-field light microscopes and one dissection microscope (Zoology & Environmental Science, US\$11,792), an 11-inch Celestron Telescope, a Hydrogen-Alpha Solar Telescope, and accessories including multiple CMOS cameras for imaging celestial objects (Physics, US\$8,363), twenty-nine e-book subscriptions (Library, US\$4,376), two oscilloscopes (Nuclear Science, US\$1,011), MultispecQ instruments (Plant Science, US\$915), shipping and handling cost for a donation of scientific equipment by Metna Co. that would have cost over Rs. 20 million (US\$75,000) if purchased directly, and sponsored the printing cost (US\$6,500) of the Faculty of Science Centennial Book.

CUFSAA members also went to great lengths to recognize the yeoman contributions of educational leaders of the Faculty. It established gold medals in honor of the Late Prof. V. Joseph, the Late Prof. M. L. T. Kannangara, and Prof. L. M. V. Tillekeratne. These academics were also honored with Scholarships named after them to support financially distressed students who show academic promise. CUFSAA also sponsored a gold medal for Computational Chemistry. We have already awarded eight such scholarships. Our membership also sponsored students in grave financial difficulty through its unique Step-Up program, where nineteen students were supported, bringing much-needed relief to their families (the Scholarships and Step-Up program currently pays US\$35 per month for a year). This is in addition to the monthly bursaries of US\$30 paid to seventy-two economically disadvantaged third- and fourth-year Special-degree students through the Launch-Pad program during the last two years.

As this lengthy narrative shows, CUFSAA is more than a marvelous idea. It is a beacon of hope to students of our Faculty and the country as it sails through troubled times!



Tamasha 2025

A message from

Dr. Reshan Fernando

President of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association of North America



Dear CUFSAA Family,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to ***Tamasha 2025!*** *This biannual gathering is not just a celebration—it is a testament to the strength, unity, and generosity of our CUFSAA community.* Whether you have traveled from near or far, or are joining us for the first time, we are delighted to have you here.

CUFSAA was founded with a simple, yet powerful mission: **To support the Faculty of Science at the University of Colombo, its students, and its faculty members, while fostering lifelong friendships among alumni across the globe.** Over the years, we

have turned this mission into action—funding scholarships, furnishing the Information and Learning Center with e-books, facilitating remote-learning with laptops, supporting research initiatives, donating essential laboratory supplies and equipment, and creating opportunities for students to thrive both academically and personally.

Since our last *Tamasha (2023)*, CUFSAA has:

- Awarded multiple student scholarships to help empower the next generation of scientists to continue their education without financial burden.
- Donated much-needed laboratory equipment to enhance learning and research capacity.
- Hosted webinars, lectures, and mentorship programs connecting alumni expertise with current students.
- Strengthened our financial health to ensure that CUFSAA's support continues for generations to come.

None of this would have been possible without your unwavering support—your time, your talents, and your generosity. With that being said, ***Tamasha 2025 is as much a celebration of these accomplishments as it is a reminder of the work yet to be done. Together, we can continue to create opportunities, break down barriers, and inspire future scientists to aim higher.***

So, let us enjoy this special occasion—catching up with old friends, making new ones, and reaffirming our shared commitment to our beloved Faculty of Science.

When you go through this souvenir book and read the stories, achievements, and memories within, I invite you to get involved with CUFSAA in whatever capacity you can. Be generous with your time, talent, and treasure—because it is through each of these that we can continue to make a lasting difference for our Faculty of Science, its students, and our community.

Here's to more years of connection, service, and impact.

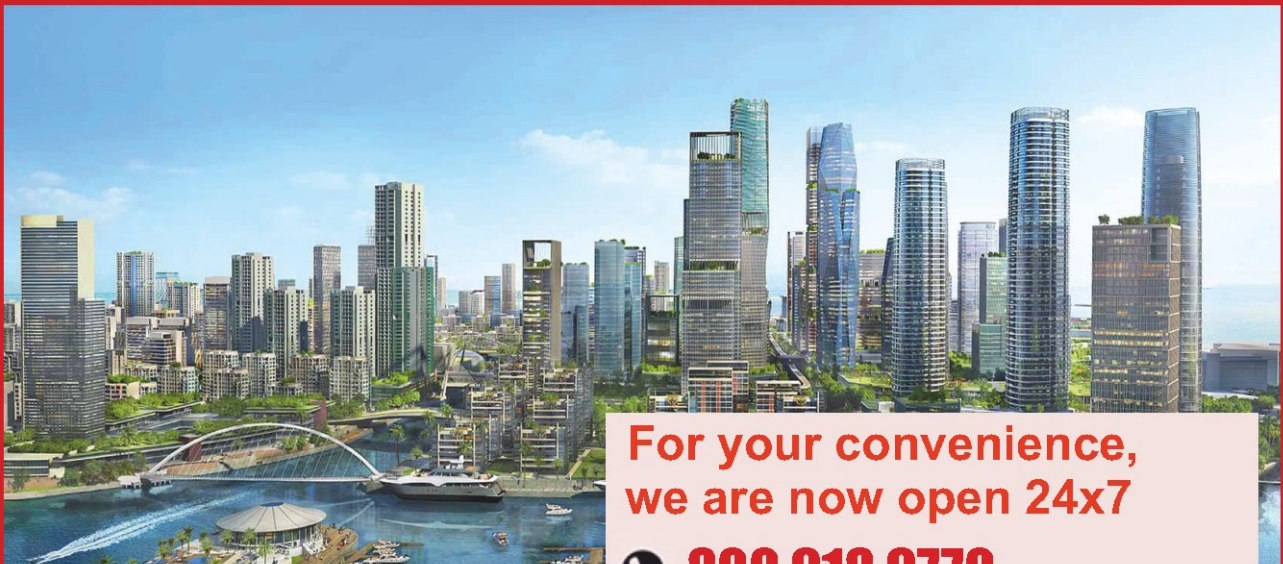
Welcome to ***Tamasha 2025***





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A message from

Dr. Samson Hettiarachchi
The Chief Guest - Tamasha 2025



I am delighted to be here as a participant of the 2025 Tamasha organized by the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association of North America (CUFSAA). I would like to thank the organizing committee of CUFSAA for inviting me to be the chief guest of this event that is held every two years. It brings nostalgic memories to my mind of similar Tamasha events held at the Colombo University premises when I was a student in the University in the late 60's.

I had the privilege to attend every Tamasha event organized by CUFSAA since its inception in 2016. The vibrant nature, the energy and the enthusiasm of the committee and the organizers of this event over the years is highly commendable. CUFSAA has assisted needy students with scholarships and supported the science faculty with many equipment and facilities. Supporting our alma mater at times of need is indeed a joyful and a rewarding experience that will leave an indelible mark in our hearts and minds. I wish CUFSAA success and all the best in going forward.

Last but not the least that I personally look forward to at this event is to make new connections and re-establish "old" connections. It is with great pride and joy that I witness many accomplishments and successes achieved by the Alumni of the Colombo University many of whom are present this evening. You all have done well and richly deserve the successes you have achieved in your lives. Your successes are a great testament to the quality of education you have received at the Colombo University that shaped your early lives. I encourage you to share your experiences with others that can become a guiding light to those who are following a similar path.

Finally, I wish you all a great evening filled with joy, fun and happiness, and request you to embrace and cherish this great moment.



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A message from

Professor Indika Karunathilake
Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo



It gives me immense joy to send my warmest greetings to all participants of *Tamasha 2025*, the annual get-together organized by the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association of North America.

The formation and continued efforts of CUFSAA are truly commendable. By staying engaged with your alma mater, you not only keep alive the cherished memories and lasting friendships forged at the University of Colombo but also continue to contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of the Faculty of Science. In today's fast-paced world, where we often become consumed with work and family responsibilities, it is easy to lose touch with the broader community that once shaped us. Alumni associations such as CUFSAA serve a vital role in reconnecting us with old friends, mentors, and the institution that helped

Such thoughtful gestures not only strengthen the bond between alumni and the University but also provide much-needed support to deserving students and the wider community. Since its establishment, CUFSAA has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to service, unity, and collaboration. Your efforts have made a significant impact, promoting meaningful connections among alumni and fostering a spirit of giving back.

I sincerely hope CUFSAA will continue its valuable work in the years ahead, further strengthening ties between the University of Colombo and its alumni in North America. Thank you once again for your dedication and support. I wish you all a joyful and memorable evening at Tamasha 2025.



*Best Wishes for a
Successful TAMASHA
2025*



**From
University of Colombo
Alumni in Massachusetts**



*A message from***Professor Upul Sonnadara**
Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo

It gives me immense pleasure to write this message for the *TAMASHA 2025* souvenir. During my tenure as Dean of the Faculty of Science, I have had the privilege of working closely with the executive committee of CUFSAA. CUFSAA has proven to be a dependable source of support for the faculty – especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted academic life at the University of Colombo. I am grateful to CUFSAA for their support during this difficult period.

January 21, 2021, marked a century of higher education in Science in Sri Lanka – a milestone that offered us a golden opportunity to both celebrate and enhance the faculty's reputation. To mark this occasion, we organized a series of commemorative events. Among them was the inauguration of the newly constructed Information and Learning Center on January 21. Today, this center serves as a model student learning facility. CUFSAA contributed to this center through their e-textbook project. On April 23, 2021, we opened a new building for the Department of Statistics – twenty years after its founding. With the introduction of the new Data Science degree with the new infrastructure facilities, it is now poised for even better achievements. Although the construction of the Student Service Center with an open canteen accommodating 400 students and dedicated student activity spaces was delayed due to the country's economic challenges, we were finally able to open it on February 20, 2025.

The shift to online education during the pandemic brought considerable challenges for our students. In response, CUFSAA helped us by donating laptops and establishing bursaries for students in need. These contributions not only greatly benefited both students and the faculty but also encouraged other organizations to join our cause. CUFSAA's broader efforts, such as donating essential medical equipment to hospitals during the COVID-19 crisis, showcase their deep commitment to the welfare of our country.

Over the past several years, CUFSAA has funded numerous initiatives of the faculty, many of which, I believe, are detailed elsewhere in this magazine. Notably, CUFSAA sponsoring the publication of *An Odyssey Through a Century*, a chronicle of the 100-year journey of science education at the University of Colombo—a legacy we all take pride in and have helped shape. This year, we also celebrated the 500th meeting of the Faculty Board, making the Faculty of Science the second at the University after the Faculty of Medicine to reach this important milestone.

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to CUFSAA and its members. I wish you all the very best for *TAMASHA 2025*!



Thank You Note from Head and Chair, Chemistry Department

Professor Nalin de Silva

CUFSAA-Donated Instruments Power Research Across the Faculty of Science

The Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, is proud to share the remarkable impact of the advanced scientific instruments generously donated by CUFSAA-NA. The **Particle Size Analyzer**, **Gas Chromatograph (GC)**, **BET Surface Area Analyzer**, and other equipment are now **fully operational** and in **continuous use**, not only within the Department of Chemistry but also by multiple departments across the Faculty of Science.

These instruments have significantly **expanded our research and teaching capacity**, enabling a wide range of projects in **materials science, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals, environmental analysis, and applied chemistry**. Researchers from Physics, Plant Sciences, Zoology, and other disciplines regularly use these facilities, making them a truly **shared resource** for the Faculty.



The CUFSAA-donated instruments are **transforming scientific capability** at the University of Colombo. They have become an indispensable part of both academic training and cutting-edge research, and we are committed to maintaining them in excellent working order to maximize their long-term value. We thank CUFSAA and its donors for their vision and generosity in empowering Sri Lankan science. Your support is helping us create **lasting educational, research, and societal impact**.



*A message from***Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody****President-Elect of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association of North America**

It is both an honor and a privilege to share this message with you as the President-Elect of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association, North America (CUFSAA-NA). For nearly a decade, our association has dedicated itself to fostering connections among alumni and supporting the Faculty of Science in its pursuit of academic excellence.

Through the dedication of our members and the generosity of our donors and well-wishers, we have been able to fund scholarships and bursaries for deserving students, support research initiatives and academic excellence through equipment donations, provide medical supplies and equipment over \$150,000 during humanitarian crises in Sri Lanka, including covid-19, install drinking water systems for students, donate computers for remote learning during covid, subscribe to E-books for the Science Faculty, and organize professional development programs, guest lecture series, mentorship networks, and social gatherings to keep our alumni connected.

These achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of our membership and the generous contributions of individuals and organizations who believe in our cause. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you.

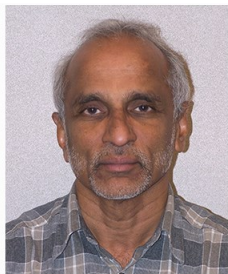
Looking ahead, we have ambitious plans to expand our outreach, enhance student support, and create new opportunities for collaboration among alumni, faculty, and students. To turn these aspirations into reality, we will need your continued engagement—whether through active participation, financial contributions, or simply by being an ambassador for our alumni network.

Together, we can ensure that the Faculty of Science remains a place where knowledge flourishes, innovation thrives, and the bonds of friendship endure for generations to come.

Thank you once again for your trust, generosity, and support. I look forward to working alongside you in the years ahead and welcome your active participation in upcoming programs to strengthen ties between alumni and Colombo University Science Faculty.



A message from
Prof. L. M. Viranga Tillekeratne
Founder President
of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association
of North America



"Some of us have been talking about organizing a get-together of alumni of the Science Faculty, University of Colombo, for a while. I think it is time to put it into action now. I hope all of you are on board with this proposal. I suggest that we form an organizing committee consisting of ourselves + a few others from different locations. Once we finalize the committee, then we can discuss the arrangements via email or on Skype. We will have to decide on when and where we are going to have it. It will be great if we can have it this year, preferably in the summer or a little after that. Venue will depend on the number who will be attending. It will be a get-together of the Colombo University alumni in North

America- USA and Canada. As a first step, can you please confirm your willingness to be on the organizing committee? Can you also suggest a few more names to be included? It will be good if they represent different generations. Hope to hear from you soon."

This was an email I sent out to a group of alumni of the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, on February 12, 2016. The response was overwhelming, as exemplified by this exuberant reply "Why not this year?" What an epic journey it has been since then! As we stand on the threshold of the 10th anniversary of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association of North America or CUFSA-NA, it is my pleasure, privilege, and great honor to write this congratulatory message as the Founder President of this esteemed organization.

What CUFSA-NA achieved on this short journey is quite remarkable, and certainly, beyond my wildest imagination! Our first project was to provide several drinking water systems for the faculty, which I am glad to note, are still in use. Since that baby step, there has been an exponential growth in the projects we have undertaken for the benefit of the students and staff of the Faculty of Science. We supplied an 11-inch Celestron Telescope and a Hydrogen-Alpha Solar Telescope to the Department of Physics, bright field light microscopes and a dissecting microscope to the Department of Zoology and Environment Science, high-performance computers and MultispeQ instruments to the Department of Plant Sciences, laptops for remote learning by students during the COVID-19 pandemic, a Canon t6i camera with a 18-135mm lens for use by the Faculty of Science Media Unit (FOS Media), oscilloscopes to the Department of Nuclear Science, and a multitude of expensive and high end equipment and glassware to the Departments of Chemistry and Physics, and the list goes on! We funded an e-book subscription service through ELSEVIER for the science library. Thanks to CUFSA-NA, the students and staff in Colombo can now access textbooks through their computers even from home.

As our Alma Mater completed a century of service to our motherland and beyond, CUFSA-NA was happy to fund the printing of the Faculty of Science Century Volume History Book to mark the occasion. Our service was not limited to the Faculty of Science only.



Tamasha 2025

Continued..

CUFSAA-NA supplied over \$150,000 worth of urgently needed medical equipment to many hospitals in Sri Lanka during the COVID-19 pandemic and helped save countless lives. Being aware that many of the students in the faculty today face untold financial hardships which impede their academic progress, CUFSAA-NA implemented the Launchpad program through which we give scholarships to 36 of the most deserving students annually. This is in addition to several scholarships that are given annually to honor former members of the academic staff.

None of this would have been possible if not for the efforts and dedication of a group of talented and hardworking alumni who volunteered their time and energy, and the generosity of the grateful alumni of the Faculty of Science. They had no hesitation in opening their hearts – and wallets- to pay back to their Alma Mater who shaped us and helped us to get where we are today!

Tamasha 2025 is a fund raiser for two of our important projects: the Launchpad Program and the Synthetic and Drug Discovery Lab project. We are confident that with your generous support, we will be able to accomplish these goals for the benefit of generations of students who will be fortunate to tread the hallowed grounds of the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo in the years to come.








CUFSAA-NA has helped to bring together many generations of like-minded alumni. Although initiated by a group of senior alumni, it is heartening to note that younger generations of alumni now play active and leadership roles in the organization. The future of CUFSAA-NA is in good hands! Tamasha is an opportunity to reconnect with our long-lost friends and to weave new threads into the fabric of our shared and ever-developing story. I wish you all an enjoyable and fun-filled evening!



CUFSAA-NA'S COMPLETED PROJECTS



Total value is over \$279,000













2024	\$23,800	Laboratory Equipment to the Department of Physics		20
	\$4,214	Equipment donation to Technology Faculty (Part 2)		19
	\$6,594	Printing cost for the Faculty of Science Centennial Book		18
	\$650	Particle Size Analyzer & GC-TCD/FID Donation (Direct Purchase Cost over \$20,000)		17
	\$923	Glassware Shipment Project (Direct Purchase Cost over \$30,000)		16
2023	\$7,980	STEP-UP PROGRAM that identifies donors to provide financial assistance for needy students		15
	\$6,422	Shipping cost for Metna Co. donated equipment (direct purchase cost over \$75,000) to the FOS		14





CUFSAA-NA's COMPLETED PROJECTS Continued



2023	\$20,004	Emergency medical supplies to various hospitals affected by the current economic situation in Sri Lanka		13
	\$4,141	Equipment donation to Technology Faculty (Part 1)		12
2022	\$1,011	2 Oscilloscopes to the Department of Nuclear Science		11
	\$4,376	Online subscriptions for 29 eBooks to the Science Faculty Library through ELSEVIR		10
2021	\$11,722	Laptop computers for economically-constrained Science Faculty students to accommodate remote learning		9
	\$160,154	Medical Equipment & essential medicines to nation-wide hospitals in Sri Lanka (COVID-Relief Effort)		8
	\$4,529	2 High Performance Computers to the Plant Sciences Department		7
2020	\$11,792	10 bright-field light microscopes (Olympus CX23) and 1 Dissecting microscope (Olympus SZX7) to the Zoology & Environmental Science Department		6
2019	\$749	A Canon EOS Rebel t6i camera and lenses for the FOS media unit of the Faculty of Science		5
	\$8,363	An 11-inch Celestron Telescope, Hydrogen – alpha Solar Telescope, and accessories to the Department of Physics		4
2018	\$915	MultispeQ instruments to the Department of Plant Sciences		3
2017	\$2,337	Drinking water system with 4 water coolers installed at Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics & Plant Sciences departments		2
	\$2,000	Scholarships & financial assistance to students affected by the wide-spread flood in 2017		1






CUFSAA-NA'S CURRENT PROJECTS



PROJECTED COST: OVER \$75,000

CUFSAA-NA APPRECIATES YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

1 \$40,000	Equipment & infrastructure for a new Synthetic Chemistry & Drug Discovery Lab (Phase 2)	
2 \$31,912	Launchpad Student Grant Program	
3 \$4,000	Student Laptop Computer Loaner Program	



FUNDS RAISED FOR GOLD MEDALS & SCHOLARSHIPS



4	Prof. M. L. T. Kannangara Memorial Gold Medal for an outstanding Physics Special student & Scholarships for most deserving students in Physics Department	\$7,146
5	Prof. Valentine Joseph Memorial Gold Medals & Scholarships to outstanding Mathematics students	\$13,033
6	CUFSAA Gold Medal for an outstanding student in special degree program in Computational Chemistry	\$2,537
7	CUFSAA scholarships for economically-affected Science Faculty students	\$31,912
8	Prof. L. M. V. Tillekeratne Gold Medal for a Chemistry Special student & a Scholarship for a second year B. Sc. Student (Funded by Prof. Tillekeratne's former students & friends)	\$11,739

AMOUNTS SHOWN ARE AS OF JULY 31, 2025

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Completed Projects



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Current Projects



Professor Valentine Joseph Gold Medals and Scholarships



Those who know Professor Joseph will remember him for his compassion and the need to help the less privileged. In 2018, CUFSAA launched the Professor Valentine Joseph Gold Medals and Scholarships to immortalize the late Professor Valentine Joseph's name. CUFSAA is pleased to inform that the project is now progressing, providing many rewards to the Student Community, largely due to the incredible generosity of our members.

The **Professor Valentine Joseph Memorial Gold Medal** for Applied Mathematics had been established and the winners had been selected and awarded since 2019. This Gold Medal was renamed as **The Professor Valentine Joseph Memorial Gold Medal for Applied Mathematics** starting from 2024.

In 2021, CUFSAA successfully implemented a second gold medal in honor of the late professor, this time for Computational Mathematics. This second gold medal, **Professor Valentine Joseph Memorial Gold Medal for Computational Mathematics**, was awarded starting from 2024.

Once again, thanks to the generosity of our members, we have successfully immortalized the Late Professor Joseph's name in a manner that the late Professor would have been genuinely proud of.

Professor Valentine Joseph Memorial Gold Medal for Applied Mathematics Winners

- 2025 Winner: Mr. JADO Chinthila
- 2024 Winner: Mr. HN Bimsara

Professor Valentine Joseph Memorial Gold Medal for Computational Mathematics Winners

- 2025 Winner: None Qualified
- 2024 Winner: Ms. JPM Dilki

Professor Valentine Joseph Memorial Gold Medal Winners *(this gold medal was renamed in 2024 as Professor Valentine Joseph Memorial Gold Medal for Applied Mathematics)*

- 2023 Winner: Mr. Lasith Senarathne
- 2022 Winner: Mr. VGPK Epa
- 2021 Winner: Mr. Osanda Abhiru Illeperuma
- 2020 Winner: Mr. Vindula Kumaranayake
- 2019 Winner: Mr. Praveen Niranda



Prof. M.L.T. Kannangara Gold Medal and Scholarships



Professor M. L. T. Kannangara (1925–2017) served the University of Colombo (UoC) for over four decades, rising from Assistant Lecturer in 1948 to Senior Professor of Physics in 1989. A BSc graduate of the University of Ceylon and PhD holder from the University of Manchester in Cosmic Ray Physics, he pursued research on geomagnetic micro-pulsations, publishing in leading journals such as the *Journal of Geophysical Research*.

He spent several stints of sabbatical leave including one at the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University. Following a sabbatical at Uppsala University, Sweden, he established Sri Lanka's first International Science Program collaboration, creating the infrastructure for local PhDs in Physics at UoC. He was President of SLAAS Section E (1963), Fellow of the Institute of Physics, London (1971), Chief Examiner for the GCE A/L Physics paper (1974–1975), and a Founder Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (1977). UoC awarded him an Honorary DSc in 1994 in recognition of his contributions to science and education.

In memory of **Professor M. L. T. Kannangara**, CUFSAA-NA, with the approval of the University of Colombo, established an endowed gold medal titled the “**Prof. M. L. T. Kannangara Memorial Gold Medal**.” This prestigious award is presented at the University Convocation to the **Most Outstanding Physics Special Degree graduate** with First-Class Honors. We are pleased to announce that this year, the **3rd Prof. M. L. T. Kannangara Memorial Gold Medal** will be awarded at the University of Colombo Convocation.

In addition, CUFSAA-NA established the “**Prof. M. L. T. Kannangara Memorial Scholarship**” to support students enrolled in any of the Special Degree Physics programs. Each year, the Department selects a third-year Physics Special student to receive funding, currently equivalent to **USD 35 per month (in Sri Lankan Rupees)**, continuing for two years until graduation, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance. As the scholarship is structured to run concurrently, there are always two recipients at any given time. After completing the full payments for both students for the **2025–2026 academic year**, the remaining scholarship fund balance will be **USD 3,294**.

Year	Gold Medal Recipient
2022	Ms. T. M. D. Limini Fonseka
2023	Mr. Buddhika Rasanjana
2024	Mr. W. D. R. Kalhara



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By: Dr. Kapila Wijekoon
1978 Chemistry Special

*"If I have a thousand ideas and only one turns out to
be good, I am satisfied."*

- Alfred Nobel

*An inspiration to our fellow alumni innovators
and inventors!*

*With best wishes
A Drug Discovery Researcher*



Tamasha 2025

Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne Gold Medal and Scholarship

Prof. L. M. 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 Doctor of Philosophy degree, he returned to Sri Lanka in 1975 and joined the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science in 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 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 the Chair of the Department of Medicinal and Biological Chemistry, at the University of Toledo, USA. He is focusing on the research areas related to synthesis and biological evaluation of 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 UofC Prof. Tillekeratne continued to serve his alma mater through the CUFSAA-NA, a non-profit organization he founded in 2016 with the mission to unite all UofC Faculty of Science alumni scattered throughout the US and Canada under a common purpose to support our alma mater, Faculty of Science, UofC. 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, well-wishers, and former students have come together and decided to establish a Gold Medal and a scholarship at the Science Faculty, UofC 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 has made a profound impact on our lives when we were students at UofC 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 UofC and pursue our post graduate 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. L.M.V. 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 2024, the gold medal was awarded to Ms. Thanuri Dassanayake during the convocation and one student received the scholarship.



FAMOUS QUOTES BY FAMOUS PEOPLE

- I can calculate the motions of heavenly bodies, but not the madness of people – Isaac Newton
- Imagination is more important than knowledge – Albert Einstein
- Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety nine percent perspiration – Thomas Alva Edison
- I believe all complicated phenomena can be explained by simpler scientific principles – Linus Pauling
- The only way to do great work is to like what you do – Steve Jobs
- I would rather have questions that cannot be answered than answers that cannot be questioned – Richard Feynman
- I don't care that they stole my idea...I care that they don't have any of their own – Nikola Tesla
- The cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be – Carl Sagan
- The only thing we have to fear is fear itself – Franklin D. Roosevelt
- History will be kind to me for I am writing it – Winston Churchill
- It always seems impossible until it's done – Nelson Mandela
- If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything – Mark Twain
- A man can be destroyed but not defeated – Earnest Hemingway
- Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none – William Shakespeare
- I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think – Socrates
- Opinion is the medium between knowledge and ignorance – Plato
- It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it – Aristotle
- To know that we know what we know, and to know that we do not know what we do not know, that is true knowledge – Nicolaus Copernicus
- The first rule is not to lose. The second rule is not to forget the first rule – Warren Buffett
- If you sleep well after watching this talk, you didn't understand it – Geoffrey Hinton (godfather of AI - during his 2024 Nobel Prize Speech)





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CUFSAA Physics Equipment Donation Project – Strengthening Experimental Learning at the University of Colombo

For decades, the Department of Physics at the University of Colombo has enriched undergraduate education through classic experimental apparatus, enabling students to explore fundamental physics principles hands-on. However, over time, several iconic experiments—such as the Zeeman effect, determination of the e/m ratio, and Fabry-Perot interferometer—became unusable and beyond repair. Responding to a request from the Head of the Department of Physics, conveyed through the Dean of the Faculty of Science, the **Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – NA (CUFSAA)** launched the Physics Equipment Donation Project. A dedicated subcommittee, in consultation with the department, prioritized and sourced high-quality instruments to restore key experiments to the curriculum.

Phase One: (Total : US\$ 5259.59)

On **June 26, 2024**, the first phase of the project reached a milestone when a shipment of essential equipment arrived at the University of Colombo. Special recognition goes to **Prof. Chandana Jayaratne** for securing necessary approvals and to **Mr. Gamini Jayawardena** for facilitating a smooth customs clearance at the Trico Warehouse.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our Phase One donors, CUFSAA subcommittee members, executive committee members and supporters for their dedication. Faculty inspections confirmed all items were in excellent condition and are now actively used in teaching laboratories.

Phase One Equipment:

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)
5. Right Angle Prism Mirror, Protected Gold, L = 50.0 mm (THOR Labs)

Phase Two: (Total : US\$ 18548.20)

Phase Two was executed in two parts :

- **Part 1** – Ordered on **August 2024** from Holmarc Opto-Mechatronics, India
: Delivered: October 12, 2024
 - Magnetic Susceptibility – Quincke's Method
 - B-H Curve / Magnetic Hysteresis Curve
- **Part 2** – Ordered on **July 2024** from United Scientific, Canada: *Delivered: April 2, 2025*
 - Zeeman Effect Apparatus
 - Michelson & Fabry-Perot Interferometer
 - Photoelectric Effect Apparatus

Once again, we are grateful to our special donor for Phase 2 of the project, CUFSAA subcommittee members, and supporters for making this possible, as well as to **Prof. Upul Sonnadara** (Dean/ Science), **Prof. Chandana Jayaratne** (HOD/Physics), **Prof. I.M.K. Fernando**, and **Dr. Kanishka Wijayarathne** for their invaluable assistance.



Looking Ahead

These instruments have already been integrated into coursework, with new experiments developed to enhance the learning experience for physics students.

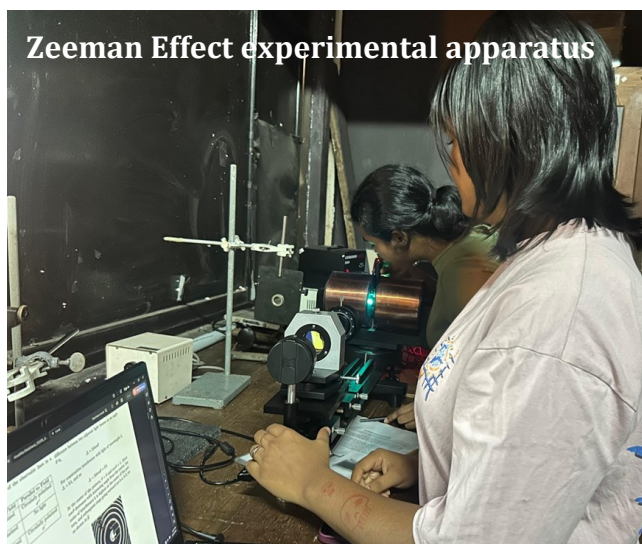
The CUFSAA Physics Equipment Donation Project is more than just a material contribution—it's a commitment to sustaining hands-on physics education for generations to come. By reviving classic experiments and introducing new ones, we are helping to ensure that students can continue to engage in experimental physics.

Donated equipment in action for Physics Laboratory Experiments

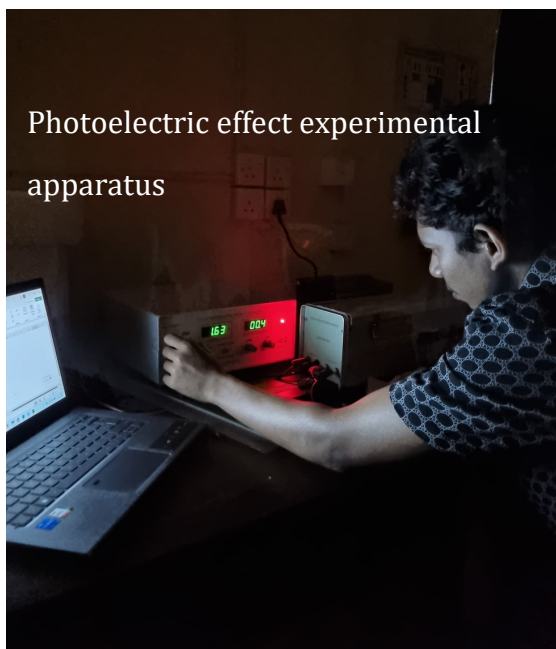
Michelson Interferometer



Zeeman Effect experimental apparatus



Photoelectric effect experimental apparatus



Millikan's oil drop experimental apparatus



Tamasha

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

6:00 pm - 7 :00 pm

7:00 pm - 8 :00 pm

8:00 pm - 12:00 am

12:00 am

Program

AGM

Registration

Cocktails & Mingling

Opening Ceremony

- *National Anthems*
- *Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp*
- *Welcome Dance—Sri Lankan Student Association of Michigan State University*
- *Welcome Address— Ms. Jeeva Witanachchi*
- *CUFSAA 10-Year Anniversary Video*
- *CUFSAA President's Address—Dr. Reshan Fernando*
- *Address by the Chief Guest—Dr. Samson Hettiarachchi*
- *CUFSAA Project Progress Video*
- *Vote of Thanks - Ms. Jeeva Witanachchi
& Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody*
- *Cultural Dance - Sri Lankan Student Association
of Michigan State University*

Music, Dance and Dinner

- *Live Band - Serendib USA*
- *Buffet Dinner (Sri Lankan Menu)*
- *Raffle Draw*

END

Best Wishes



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Launch Pad : Helping struggling Science undergraduates launch their future.

Sri Lanka's ongoing economic crisis has placed immense strain on families across the country, and university students have not been spared. At the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo (UoC), many undergraduates are facing severe financial hardship. For these students, the rising cost of tuition, academic materials, and daily living expenses has made continuing their education increasingly difficult if not impossible.

In response to this urgent need, the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association (CUFSAA), in collaboration with the Faculty of Science, launched the Launch Pad Grant Program in 2024. This initiative was designed to provide direct financial support to the 36 most economically disadvantaged special degree students, offering each recipient an annual grant of US\$360.

CUFSAA is proud to report that, thanks to the generosity of alumni and well-wishers, the program has successfully completed one full cycle and has already disbursed the first installment of the second cycle. In total, 36 students have received critical support for two consecutive years, helping students stay enrolled and focused on their studies during one of the most difficult periods in recent history.

Scholarship recipients were selected through a fair and transparent process, with Faculty and CUFSAA oversight ensuring integrity. The Launch Pad program has made a real difference. Students who once feared leaving university now have renewed hope. Many have expressed their gratitude in letters featured on the Launch Pad webpage, showing the program's life-changing impact.

This initiative would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors. You helped launch one of the largest and most premium student grant schemes in the history of the University of Colombo. Your support has not only alleviated financial burdens but has also sent a powerful message to students: you are not alone, and your future matters.

It is heartwarming to see how you, who once upon a time roamed the Faculty and benefitted from the education it gave you, have rallied together to help out the next generation of Science students in their darkest hour. In doing so, you have honored your own academic journey and become a beacon of hope for others.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for standing with them. Let's keep going.

**CUFSAA-NA Launch-Pad
Donor Dedication Wall**

<https://www.cufsaa.com/dedicationwall/>

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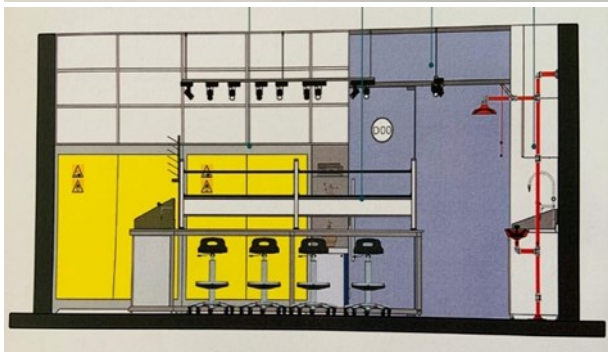
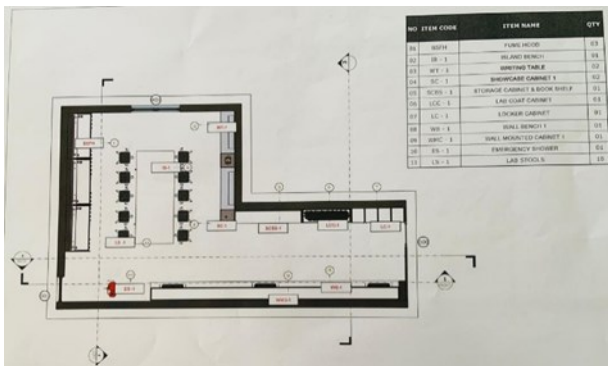
Progress Update: CUFSAA-Funded Synthetic and Drug Discovery Laboratory

The Synthetic and Drug Discovery Laboratory at the Department of Chemistry, University of Colombo, supported by CUFSAA-NA, is now entering the implementation phase.

The Department of Chemistry engaged a private design company to create a comprehensive laboratory layout and infrastructure plan. The design phase is now complete, and the plans address modern requirements for **synthetic chemistry, materials chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and drug discovery research**. "The proposed facility will significantly enhance our capacity for advanced research, postgraduate training, and collaborative projects with both local and international partners," says Professor Nalin de Silva, Head and Chair of the Department of Chemistry. The Chemistry Department is confident that, with successful fundraising by CUFSAA, they can **complete construction and commissioning of the laboratory by the end of this year**. This will enable the faculty and students to conduct cutting-edge research that contributes to the advancement of science and fosters innovation in areas of national and global importance.

The initial estimate for Phase 2 of the project, which CUFSAA-NA undertook responsibility of funding, was \$35,000. Due to a need to absorb a portion of the cost of Phase 1 of the project, this had to be revised to \$40,000. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, we have been able to meet our initial target of \$35,000 (including a \$2,500 pledge) to date. We are confident of raising the remaining \$5,000 with your support soon. Please talk to any executive committee member if you are interested in learning more about this project. We welcome your generous support!

Below are photos showcasing the design plans of the project.



The Chemistry Department thanks CUFSAA for our commitment and generosity in making this transformative initiative a reality.



Use the QR Code or Visit <http://www.cufsaa.com/synthetic-lab/>





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US\$ 100 cash prize
- **Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody**
Basket of Sri Lankan goods (2)
Two sets of makeup applicator sponges (15 sponges per set)
- **First Day Cover** – Science Faculty, University of Colombo –
Celebrating 100 years of excellence in Science, 1921 -2021 (2)
- **An Odyssey through a Century** – The story of the Faculty of
Science, University of Colombo – A copy of centennial Book (1)



Best Wishes To CUFSAA



1995/96 Physics Special Batch

*Disna, Gamindu, Aroshan (Eluwa),
Samantha (Lama), Dinesh & Mevan*

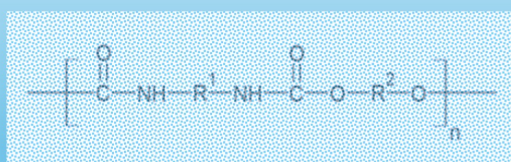


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Best wishes to CUFSAA-NA as it continues to fulfill its social, charitable, and educational mission.

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Greetings to all!

Bringing Back the Memories of the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo. Wishing you all a very enjoyable Tamasha!



- Dulasiri & Chitra (nee Padmaperuma)
Amarasiriwardena



Best wishes from the class of 1981/1982!



Indira and Palitha Jayaweera



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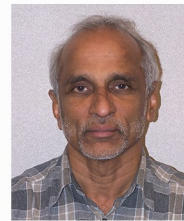
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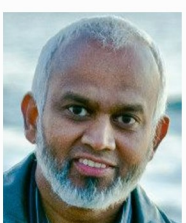
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Gajaka Weerasinghe



Isurika Weerasinghe



Best wishes to CUFSAA



Nilmini and Priyantha Fernando



Be Strong. Be Resilient. Walk Alone if You Must.

There are times in life when you must walk alone, not because you're weak, but because growth often happens in solitude. Difficult periods are when resilience is built, character is shaped, and intelligence is sharpened. Don't be afraid to be alone. It's in those moments that you discover your true strength.

No matter how much good you do, people often remember your flaws. That is the reality of life. So, don't live to please others. Learn to say "no" or "I can't" when it matters. Setting boundaries is not selfish. It is necessary.

Do good. Be kind. But always be prepared for the unexpected. Not everyone will appreciate your efforts, and some will only be comfortable as long as you stay below them. The moment you rise above, the criticism begins. That is human nature.

If you spend all your time working for someone else's dreams, you may lose sight of your own. Choose wisely. Many will smile in front of you but criticize you behind your back. That is life. Accept it. Don't let it break you.

Resilience means staying calm in the storm. It means being alert, wise, and emotionally strong. Life is a game. You need to play it skillfully. Know when to push, when to pause, and when to walk away.

Protect your dreams. Work hard. Be ethical. But also, be prepared. Most people look out for themselves first. That does not mean you should lose your goodness. Just don't be naïve. Be strong, not just in your mind, but in your purpose. Build a personality that can stand alone when needed.



**In the end, you don't
need a crowd to validate
your journey. You only
need clarity, courage,
and conviction.**

*Source: Prof. Nalín de Silva -
Facebook Post Aug 8, 2025*



Acknowledgements

Our profound gratitude to everyone who contributed with time, talent, and treasure to make the Tamasha 2025 a success.

- Chief Guest, Dr. Samson Hettiarachchi
- All Sponsors and Advertisers of the Souvenir
- All Raffle Draw Prize Sponsors
- All Invitees who provided Special Messages for the Souvenir
- Jovann Dawood-Mihalian and the Staff, and Management of Regency Manor Banquet Center, Southfield, Michigan
- Mike Brunstedt and His Team of Full Color Printing, Cleveland, OH for Full Color Printing of the Souvenir
- Sri Lankan Student Association of Michigan State University Performers
- Band: Kutila Dias and the Serendib USA
- Spicy Zest Caters, Farmers Branch, TX: Nimidu Senaratne and Chamari Senaratne
- Jeeva Witanachchi, Upali Jayamaha, Reshan Fernando, Mahendra & Harshani Munidasa, Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne, Sandya Liyanarachchi, Vicumpriya Perera, Chandrasiri Jayakody, Isurika Weerasinghe, Kumudu Rathnayake, Lanka Van Dort, Laksman Caldera, Prince Perera, Vindula Alwis, Oshadha Ranasinghe, Sumeda Jayasena, Chandana Goonetilleke, Saliya de Silva, Binodh de Silva, and all those who supported Tamasha 2025 Organizing Committee .
- Lanka Van Dort for Decorations and Flower Arrangements
- Ajith Waidyaratne for preparing the backdrop for the photobooth
- Sumedha Jayasena, Oshadha Ranasinghe for Videography and Photography
- Sumedha Jayasena for designing the Tamasha 2025 Flyer and Tickets
- Sachith Dissanayake, Oshadha Ranasingha, Sumeda Jayasena, Mahendra Munidasa, Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne, Reshan Fernando, Kirthi Premadasa, Wasundara Fernando, Vicumpriya Perera, Unil Perera, Nalin Samarasingha, Prabath Kuruwitaarachchi, Sandya Liyanarachchi, Jeeva Witanachchi, Chandrasiri Jayakody and the Souvenir Committee for wonderfully putting together this Souvenir book within a very short period of time.
- Sumedha Jayasena and Randara Pulukkody for Creation and Narration of CUFSAA-NA's 10th Year Anniversary Video and Project Progress Video
- MC's for the Evening: Binodh de Silva and Kirthi Premadasa
- All Well-Wishers, Donors, and Volunteers
- All guests who attended the Tamasha and those who purchased tickets when they were unable to attend and those who paid for student tickets
- Nearby hotels, Marriott, Hilton Garden Inn, Comfort Suites, Hampton for reserving blocks of rooms at Discounted Rates

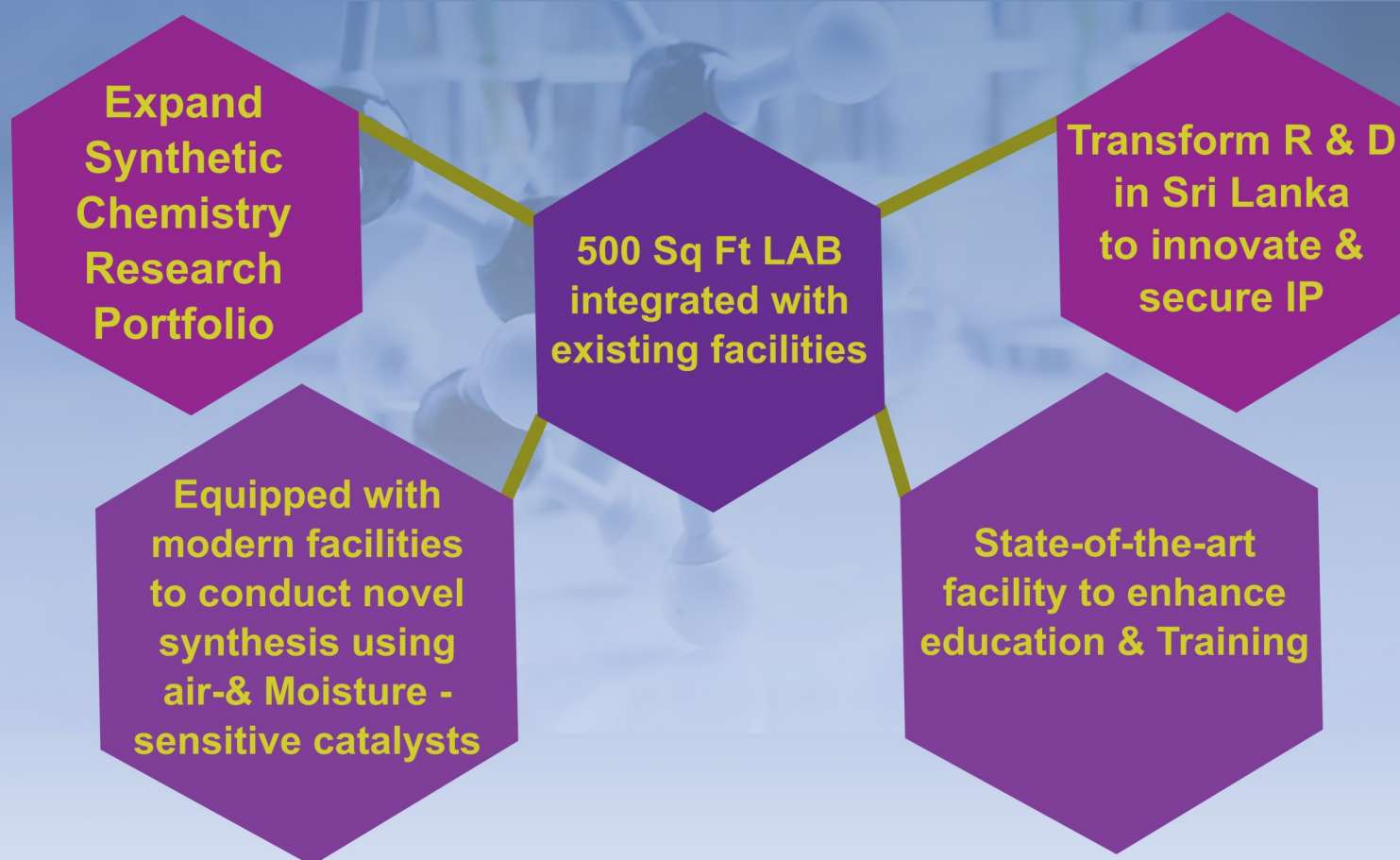




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PHASE 2: BASIC LAB INFRASTRUCTURE Sponsored by CUFSAA-NA
(Est. US\$ 40,000)

TO CONDUCT ADVANCED RESEARCH IN SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMISTRY



Expect to complete by the end of 2025



FOR MORE INFO:
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