HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies represents one of the oldest departments of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. It was originally formed in 1959 under the name of Vidyodaya University of Sri Lanka. The founder of the University, the most venerable Welivitiye Sri Soratha Nayaka thero had the objective of making the University a centre of learning on Buddhist Philosophy and Buddhist Civilization. The Department is proud to continue this tradition and provide opportunities for students to study major areas related to the Pali Language and Literature, Buddhist Civilization, Buddhist Philosophy as well as Philosophy and Psychology.

Message from the Head of the Department

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies has its own prestige for disseminating knowledge to the world relating to several subjects. It is also recognised as the oldest Department of the University. It is indeed a great pleasure to me to greet you with a message to this bi-annual newsletter. Through this annual newsletter we are looking forward to maintaining a discourse beyond relationship with academics, students and society. The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura could join hands for a meaningful exchange of news, views and opinions in the subject areas of Pali and Buddhist Studies as well as Philosophy and Psychology. It must be noted that student’s body of the Department consists of those who follow Pali, Buddhist Philosophy, Buddhist Civilization and Philosophy and Psychology. It is also part of our aim to bridge the gap between the Department and the wider community as well as the non-university communities who are interested in the activities of the Department. We are willing to share the Departmental views, news, knowledge and skills with all of them through this newsletter. This inaugural issue proves that every meaningful wish could be fulfilled when the right type of people come together. I wish with metta for the continuation of this newsletter to a glorious future.

Venerable Professor Madagampitiye Wijithadhamma Thero

An Abhidhamma Dialogue between Tibetans and Sri Lankans on Theravada and Mulasarvasthivada Traditions was held on 07th June 2016, organized by the Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies at the Board Room, FHSS

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Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura
USJP Pali-Buddhist Editors : Ven Ehelepola Mahinda Thero and Mr Sajana Jayasanka
Special Acknowledgement to Mrs Indira Mawelle
Appointment of New Head of Department

Venerable Professor Madagamputhe Wijithadhamma has been appointed as new head of the Department from 1st of June

The Professor in Chair of the Department

Venerable Professor Magammana Pannananda was selected as the Professor in Chair of the Department who is specialized in

The Department wins 1st place in

“Geethanjali Bhakthi Geetha Festival”

“Geethanjali 2016”, the unique Buddhist devotional songs contest organised by the department of Pali and Buddhist studies with the great effort of Dr Wasantha Mendis was held on 15th of June at the university premises.
**The LMS is Functioning**

Workshop in LMS (Learning Management System) has been organised for the students who study Buddhist Philosophy in both mediums. It was held in the Faculty computer centre, conducted by Venerable Lecturer Kudakathnoruwe Vineetha.

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**The Buddhism is Disseminated to European Region**

**Venerable Professor Madagoda Abhayatissa Thero** delivered a special discourse related to Vesak celebrations in May at Nevada Buddhist Vihara Inc. Las Vegas, USA. His erudite discourse was appraised by a large gathering at Las Vegas, United States of America.

The Venerable Professor had successfully accomplished an intensive English program in California State University, Fullerton.

The special guest speech was delivered by Venerable Profes at the International Buddhist Meditation centre located in New Hampshire Ave, Los Angeles.

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**Human Wellbeing was Redefined**

Senior Lecturer Dr Yaparathna Weerasekara held a special lecture on “Buddhism and regular lifestyle” in February at Godigamuwa temple Neelammahara.

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**Southern School Children Benefited**

Mr. G.A Gamini

He held a special Guest lecture at the Sujatha Vidyalaya Matara on 8th July 2016. He was the chief guest at this event which was organised by the Arts Association of Sujatha Vidyalaya.

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**Vesak Decorations in May, 2016**

The Vesak Full Moon Poya day was celebrated by the Pali and Buddhist Studies Association of the Department. The students were very much encouraged to hang Vesak Lanterns at the Department lobby to epitomise the Buddhist temperance of spiritual wellbeing.

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**Contribution to Piriven Education**

The Sabaragamuwa Provincial Department of Education organised a special training program for “Piriven” teachers. Venerable Professor Madagoda Abhayatissa Thero was the guest speaker at the event which was held in 14.07.2016 at the Meneripitiya Educational Training Research and Development Centre.

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**KOKILA UDANAYA 2016**

“Awurudu rituals” and “Kokila Uadanaya”, the “Awurudu” celebration festival, organised by the department was held in April 2016.

The Sinhalese and Tamil New Year festival in April is one of the prominent events celebrated delightfully by people. It was a fresh experience for the Department of Pali and Buddhist studies to organise a unique celebration of the New Year festival in April. It was organised under the guidance of Dr Wasantha Mendis of the Dept. held in 8th April 2016 with a massive participation of staff and the students of the Department.

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**The Students of PBSSA**

The Vesak Full Moon Poya day was celebrated by the Pali and Buddhist Studies Association of the Department. The students were very much encouraged to hang Vesak Lanterns at the Department lobby to epitomise the Buddhist temperance of spiritual wellbeing.
- Venerable Prof Pannananda visited Pakistan as a Government Invitee

Venerable Thera actively participated in a government formal visit to Pakistan with the Speaker of the Sri Lanka Parliament, Minister of Justice and Religious Affairs and other government representatives. The discussion was held in “Panjabi” with the President of Pakistan, Chief Speaker of Pakistan Parliament, Minister of Religious Affairs Pakistan, governor of Panjibi, Vice Chancellor of the Panjabi University and other academic staff members.

Venerable Professor also engaged in an academic field trip to China and Tibet.

- Mr Aruna Walpola on National Activities

Mr Aruna Shantha Walpola contributed his services to the Sri Lanka Air Force Academy as a distinguished lecturer for conducting a lecture series on Philosophy and Psychology for their internal degree program.

He conducted the seminar series for the Advanced Level Logic and Scientific Method at Seevali National School in Rathnapura. He participated as a resource person to conduct a seminar series.

He has represented the Subject Development Committee at the National Institute of Education regarding the compilation of Teacher’s Guide and syllabus for Advanced level Logic and Scientific Method.

- Donation For Disabled War Heroes

A donation program for the disabled war heroes in "A b h i m a n s a l a A n u r u d h a p u r a" was organised by Dr Wasantha Mendis together with his students.

on 06 and 7th of July
Professor Gnanadasa Perera conducted an unique event specially organised for the youth community relevant to Rehabilitation psychotherapy.

Another special program was conducted by Professor Perera for the tribes in “Sirambiadi” called “Kaperi” / Sri Lankan Kaffirs in Puttalam, north western province of Sri Lanka. Specific research had been conducted by Professor Gnanadasa Perera with the assistance of University students. A Counselling program was also held in their village including Psychodrama.

A Counselling and music therapy program was organised by the family planning institute. This program had been specially scheduled for the wellbeing of HIV infected patients. Professor Perera emphasised the value of considering all HIV infected people as humans and how to induce them to the society.

**Dr Weerasena Works as the Coordinator of the External Degree Program**

Dr K.A Weerasena was appointed as the coordinator of the external Degree program in the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Dr Weerasena has been working as the coordinator of “Dhamm Sarasavi Diploma” program for many years with his incomparable contributions and attempts.

**NEWLY APPOINTED LECTURERS TO THE DEPARTMENT**

NEW ACADEMIC STAFF MEMBERS WERE RECRUITED FOR BUDDIST CIVILIZATION AND PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

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A special donation project, called “Humans for Human’s Heartiest contributions” was organised by the Department for helping people who were affected by the floods in Galahitiyawa, Gamulla. It was held on 13th June 2016 at the Galahitiyawa, Gamulla Purana Viharaya with accompanied by children in Early Childhood Development centres and the villagers.

Chief Organizer; Venerable Kudakathnoruwe Vineetha thero

Special aid/donation program for the disabled war heroes was held in Abimansala Anuradhapura.

Accordance with the BUCI 2160 “Buddhism and Social Problems”, 153 students and academic staff members of the Department had participated at a special donation program in Abimansala, a welfare and hospitality care centre for the disabled soldiers of Sri Lanka, located in Anuradhapura. The lunch was provided to them on 07.07.2016 and a special entertainment program was also presented to them with their warmest pleasure.

Pali Talk in Myanmar by Venerable Professor Madagampitye Wijithadamma

Venerable Thera delivered the inaugural speech in Pali medium at the international seminar on ‘Buddhism, Higher Education and Vision’ held in the opening ceremony of Shan State Buddhist University (SSBU), Union of Myanmar on 6th February 2016.

Ven. Wijithadhamma on a Vinaya Dialogue in India

The Thera participated in a historic event of ‘Dialogue on Vinaya’ between Theravada and Mulasarvastivada traditions on 27 February 2016 held in Drepung Monastic University, Mundgod, Karnataka State, India.