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**Past president of BitSoc,  
Mr. RAR Mahendra  
addressing the AGM**



**Dr. K Vivehananthan  
addressing the Newcomers**



**Executive Members of the  
BitSoc (2013/2014)**

## Executive Members of BitSoc (2013/2014)

President	: Mr. WADLR Warnakula (3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Student)
Vice President	: Ms. MP Dassanayake (Lecturer)
Secretary	: Mr. MJMS Kurera (3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Student)
Asst. Secretary	: MMTS Aberathne (3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Student)
Senior Treasurer	: Dr. (Ms.) NS Kottearachchi (Senior Lecturer)
Junior Treasurer	: DS Liyanage (3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Student)
Editor	: Prof. DPSTG Attanayaka (Dean/ FAPM)
Advisor	: Dr. (Mrs.) K Vivehananthan – Head/ BT

## Rejuvenating BitSoc – A pathway to a New Chapter

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting of the BitSoc was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 at Camellia Hall. This event was attended by the staff of the Department of Biotechnology, 3<sup>rd</sup> year students and 4<sup>th</sup> year students. Many activities were suggested to be conducted during the 2013 tenure. Membership stressed the necessity of raising funds for the BitSoc. Proposals on fund raising activities were suggested. In addition, more proposals were requested to promote the awareness of biotechnology and to enhance the commitment to solve the problems in biotech related aspects.

## Message from the New President of BitSoc

I would like to express my gratitude to the past president and the membership of BitSoc for the confidence placed in me by electing me as the president of BitSoc for 2013/2014. I humbly request all BitSoc members, students and staff to be collaborative and cooperative to reach the goals of BitSoc in order to successfully accomplish the activities planned for 2013.

Lakshan Warnakula (President / BitSoc)



## Induction Programme for Newcomers

The staff of the Department of Biotechnology in collaboration with the students of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year biotechnology specializing group organized an informative session to introduce the applications in biotechnology and the department activities to the newly admitted students of the Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management. The program was coordinated by the Head of the Department of Biotechnology, Dr. K Vivehananthan.

## Staff Visit to Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC)

Academic staff of FAPM visited Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The visit, organized by Dr. K Vivehananthan, provided exposure to innovative applications of Nanotechnology in various areas.



### Committee Members:

Dr. (Ms.) SNT De Silva (Senior Lecturer)  
Mr. A Suganthan (Asst. Lecturer)  
Ms. WIWHMEH Wettewa (Demonstrator)  
Mr. RAR Mahendra (4<sup>th</sup> Year Student)  
Ms. NMH Edirisinghe (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Student)  
Ms. WPKK Wickramanayake (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Student)  
Ms. KBP Perera (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Student)  
Mr. KPOS Jayathilake (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Student)



## Our Congratulations : Achievements of BitSoc Members



**Ms. Achala Jayasena** received an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship and a University of Queensland Centennial Scholarship to pursue her PhD on a new class of seed peptides at University of Western Australia. Ms. Jayasena completed her Master's from Adelphi University, New York and also worked as a RA at Iowa State University, USA.



**Ms. DR Gimhani** was awarded the 2011 Global Rice Science Scholarship to pursue her PhD on "salinity tolerant QTLs of rice in elite rice background" at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines.



**Ms. Dilini Sewwandi Samarajeewa**, past BitSoc member, is a graduate student of Eastern Illinois University, USA. She has been awarded many awards for her excellence in research and overall performance. Ms. Samarajeewa was the recipient of Graduate Student Investigator awards (2012, 2013), Awards of excellence in Research/ creative activity (2012, 2013) and a free membership to The Sigma Xi research society (2012, 2013). Recently she was selected for the Distinguished International Student Award from the Department of Biological Sciences based on her GPA and overall performance. She will be starting her PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology at Illinois State University from August 2013 onwards.



**Ms. Chathurani Ranathunge** was awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship from Mississippi State University, USA to pursue a PhD in Biological Sciences.



**Mr. A. Suganthan** (Batch 2007/2008) became the top of the graduating batch of 2012. He obtained 3.96 GPA which is the highest among all graduates of Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management to date.

## Workshop for A/Level Students



A workshop related to plant tissue culture was conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013 for Advanced Level students of President's College, Minuwangoda. The program included an introduction to tissue culture laboratory facilities in the department and demonstrations of micro-propagation techniques. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. RACA Ranathunge and Ms. WIWHMEH Wettewa under the coordination of Dr. K Vivehananthan.

## BitSoc Science Photo Contest 2013



This competition aims at recognizing the talents of scientific photographers and showcasing images from the range of scientific disciplines within Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. A scientific photograph can be both a technical document as well as an object of beauty.

Eligibility: Academic staff, Non-academic staff, Undergraduate and Postgraduate students of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. Winners will be awarded prizes and winning photos will be presented in the University premises. Interested candidates please contact the organizers. (Vice President, E-mail - [dasanayaka1984@gmail.com](mailto:dasanayaka1984@gmail.com))

**Editorial Board :** Dr. NS Kottarachchi, Ms. RACA Ranathunge and Prof. DPSTG Attanayaka

**Computer Applications :** Ms. BLDD Hemachandra

***Creativity is contagious, pass it on - Albert Einstein***

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