



BitSoc NewsLetter

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Department of Biotechnology
Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

*Biotechnology Society
E circulated Newsletter*

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Appointment of HOD/BT

Dr. K. Vivehananthan



Dr. Kalaivani Vivehananthan assumed the post as Head of the Department, Department of Biotechnology

from 1st September 2014. BitSoc sends warm wishes and continues under the committed guidance of Dr. Vivehananthan for the coming years.

Events..

Prof. Pascal's Visit to BT Dept.



Prof. Pascal Boeckx, from Isotope Bioscience laboratory of the Ghent University-

delivered the key note lecture at the Wayamba International Conference (WinC 2014). During the stay, Prof. Boeckx paid a visit to the Biotechnology laboratory on 27th of August 2014. Dr. Wajira Balasooriya coordinated the visit.

Announcements

BitSoc Office Bearers 2014/15

A new executive committee of BitSoc for 2014/15 was appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 20th May 2014.

Expansion of BT Laboratory



For a long time, inadequate space in the Biotechnology Laboratory has been a major constraint especially during undergraduate practical classes. As an effort taken by the Head of the Department, the allocation of funds has been approved for the extension of the Laboratory and the expansion work has been commenced recently. Further extension will increase the capacity of the Department to accommodate more undergraduate students and postgraduate researchers.

Message from the President

Ms. AHYTM Ariyasinghe

I wish to express my gratitude to past president for the great service and all members of BitSoc for electing me as the



President for 2014/15. I humbly request all the members for cooperation and contribution to achieve the objectives of BitSoc successfully through different activities which are planned for the upcoming year.

UGC Grant to BT Dept. Rs. 2 Mil

We happily announce that Department of Biotechnology recently received a special grant by the University Grants Commission worth of 2 million rupees to purchase the Laboratory equipment. The success came via the special request made by Head of the Department, Dr. K. Vivehananthan to the Chairperson UGC, Prof. K. Hirimburegama during a recent meeting with Wayamba University Academics.

Seminar "Programmed Cell Death" - Prof. A. Gunawardena



BitSoc organized a seminar on Programmed Cell Death conducted by Prof. Arunika Gunawardena (Dalhousie University, Canada) on 14th August 2014 at the Staff Development Center. Prof. Gunawardena has received the best teaching award 2013 - Dalhousie University and discussed the tips for academic success as well. Dr. N.S. Kottearachchi coordinated the seminar.

Tissue Culture Training for A/L Teachers



A tissue culture training programme for A/L teachers was successfully conducted by Dr. N.S. Kottearachchi at the Biotechnology laboratory on 26th September 2014. More than 50 Agriculture teachers representing schools from various districts of the country were participated.

Workshop on Digital Story

BitSoc members, Mr. Lakshan Waranakula, Dileepa Liyanage and Janith Wishwakeerthi successfully participated for a Workshop on Digital Story by the NSF, Sri Lanka on 9th of August 2014. First Digital Story produced by BitSoc, "Gold in Rice" has been published to the internet (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Biotechnology-Society>).



BitSoc Paduru Party 2014



BitSoc members gathered for the annual musical evening "BitSoc Paduru Party" on 22nd of June 2014. Newcomers were warmly welcomed by the passing-out batch of the Biotechnology Department.

Achievements by BitSoc Members.....Congratulations!



Best Presenter AGRES 2014 - Mr. S. Kurera

Mr. Shehan Kurera has received the Best Presenter in Biotechnology Award for the research titled "Alpha amylase production from *Geotrichum candidum* using Agriculture Waste" at the Agricultural Research Symposium held on 7-8 August 2014.



Dr. Dharmawansa Senadheera Award - Ms. W.H. de Silva

Ms. Heshani de Silva has received the Dharmawansa Senadheera award for her best performance in Biotechnology in 2009/2013 batch at the General Convocation 2014.



PhD Scholarship - Ms. E. Wettewa

Ms. Eranga Wettawa started PhD studies on "Phylogenetics and Evolutionary Biology of an Orchid spp" at the Mississippi State University recently with an Award of a Graduate Teaching Assistantship.

Best Poster Award at the World Congress of Soil Science 2014 - Dr. W. Balasooriya

Poster presentation by Dr. Wajira Balasooriya, "Apparent Electrical Conductivity (ECa) based Potential management zones for Site Specific Nutrient Management in Paddy Soils of Sri Lanka" has received Best Poster award at the 20th World Congress of Soil Science at Jeju, South Korea on 8-13 June 2014.

WinC - 2014 Presenters -Mr. A. Suganthan and Ms. W.H. De Silva

Mr. A. Suganthan and Ms. W.H. De Silva have presented "Direct Detection and Identification of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in Industrial Effluent for Bioremediation" and "Development and Validation of an Allelic Ladder for D18S51 Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Locus" at the WinC - 2014 on 29-30th August 2014.

BitSoc Office Bearers 2014/2015

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The Science of Today is the Technology of Tomorrow... Edward Teller

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