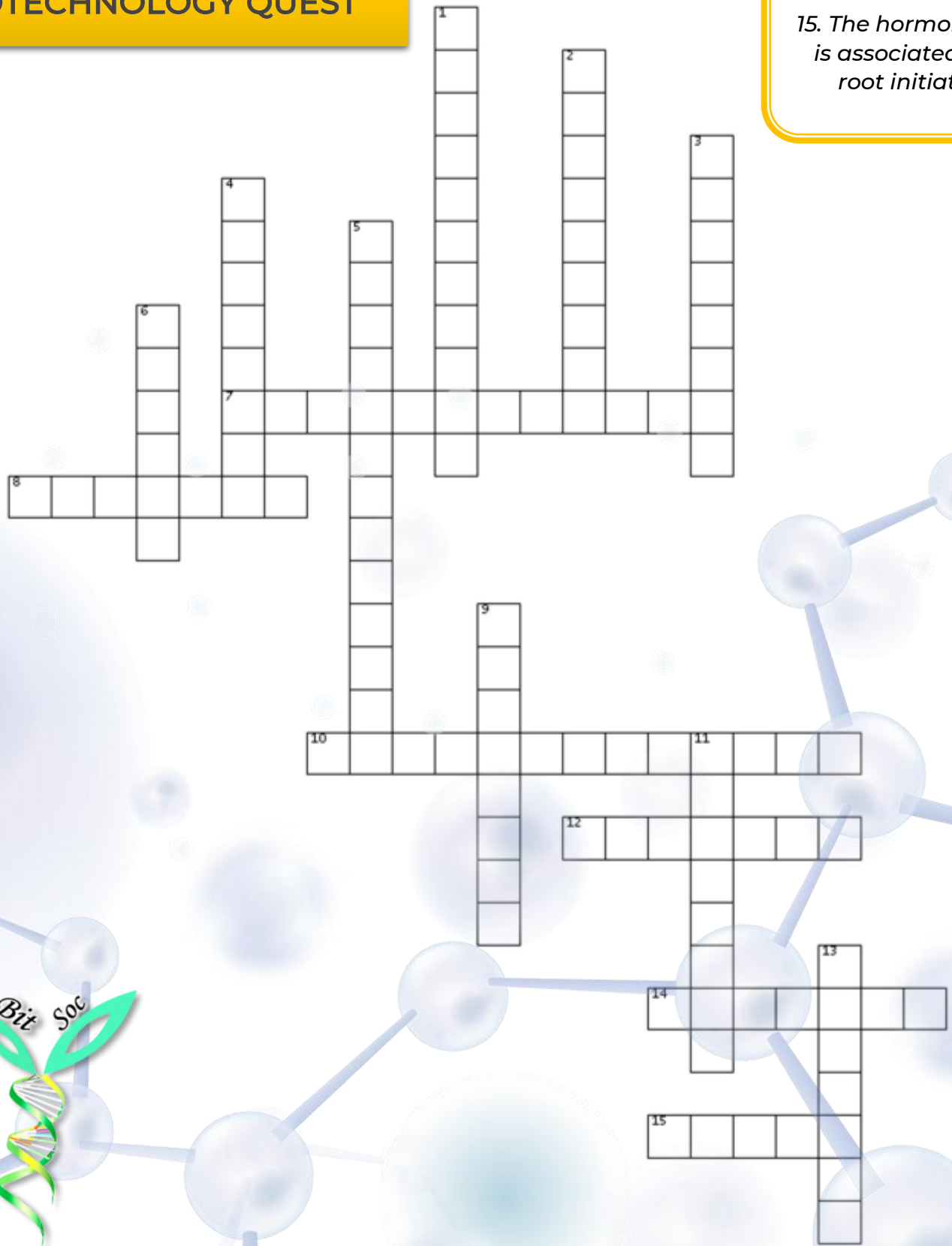


PUZZLE HINT - ➡

15. The hormone that is associated with root initiation



BITSOC NEWS

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BITSOC NEWS

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Page 1 - Message from the New President Annual General Meeting 2023
- Page 2,3,4 – BitSoc Events
- Page 5,6 – Retirement of Prof. D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka
- Page 6 – New Recruitments
- Page 7 – First Short Course of the Department of Biotechnology
- Page 8 – Achievements of the Staff Postgraduate Studies
- Page 10, 11,12,13,14 – Achievements of the Students



BIOTECHNOLOGY SOCIETY OF WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND PLANTATION MNGEMENT
WAYAMB UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA





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P.M. KUMARASIRI



T.M. JAYATHIKAKE



W.S.Y. SAHATHRA
NAMEESHA



**2nd YEAR EXECUTIVE
MEMBER**

P.T. VITHANAGE



**1st YEAR EXECUTIVE
MEMBER**

J.S. JAYASIRI

Message from the New President

I sincerely pay my gratitude to all of you for considering and recognizing me as a capable person for the president of The Biotechnology Society (BitSoc) for the year 2023/ 2024. Your trust in me encourages me a lot to do my best to achieve the goals of society. I am very confident, excited, and ready to face the challenges of the upcoming year. I would like to appreciate the excellent service done by our previous BitSoc Executive committee and all the members, which I hope to continue during my tenure as the president.

P.G.S.C. Ariyaratne

President- BitSoc- Year 2023/ 2024

Annual General Meeting of BitSoc

2023

The 14th Annual General Meeting was held on 29th November 2023 via Zoom with the participation of the academic staff members of the Department of Biotechnology and students representing all four batches. New office bearers were appointed for the year 2023/ 2024. The outgoing committee led by the former president Mr O.K.T. Nimesh Dananjana was appreciated for their immense cooperation towards the continuation of BitSoc activities.

The Steering Committee Members (Year 2023/2024)

- President: Mr P.G.S.C. Ariyaratne
- Secretary: Ms H.M.B.T.N. Marambage
- Vice President: Mr S.M.D.B. Ariyaratne
- Assistant Secretary: Ms S.P.D. A. Warnakulasooriya
- Senior Treasurer: Dr (Ms) D.R. Gimhani
- Junior Treasurer: Mr D.A.R.C.N. Jayathissa
- Editor: Dr (Ms) P.S. Warakagoda
- Advisor: Dr K.M. Mewan

Executive Committee members (Year 2023/2024)

- Senior Prof N.S. Kottearachchi
- Dr (Ms) B.L.W.K. Balasooriya
- Mr O.K.T. Nimesh Dananjana
- Ms L.P.M. Kumarasiri
- Mr K.R.T.M Jayathikake
- Ms W.S.Y Sahathra Nameesha
- Mr P.T. Vithanage

PUZZLE HINT -

1. The microorganism that is eliminated in canned foods

BitSoc Events

BioCanva Art Competition

BIOCANVA, the island-wide art competition is one of the activities organized by BitSoc aiming at raising awareness about the potential of the biotechnology field in a creative way among the school children of Sri Lanka. The competition was under primary, secondary, and tertiary categories, and altogether, 38 drawings were received from 20 schools. In the first round, drawings were screened for the thematic topic by Dr Wajira Balasooriya and Dr Priyanwada Warakagoda, Senior lecturers of the department. BitSoc conveys their gratitude to Mr Mahesha Bandara, Headteacher of the Arts section in Sandalankawa Central College for careful final assessments of the drawings and the selection of the winners as listed below and the winners will receive a certificate and cash prizes in due course. In addition, eight drawings were selected for merit certificates. On receipt of one drawing no winner was selected under the tertiary category. All the arts were glamorously exhibited at the Biotechnology Department. The BIOCANVA Arts completion was coordinated by the student committee comprised of Ms Jayanadee Darmawansha (team leader) and 12 students under the guidance of Dr Wajira Balasooriya, Senior Treasurer, BitSoc 2022/2023.

Primary (Grade 1-5)- Vaccines are heroes who fight against diseases

1 st Place	E.S.T. Edirisooriya	Grade 4, Marapola Primary School, Walpitamulla
2 nd Place	B.T.S. Weerasekara	Grade 4, Sangamiththa Girls College, Galle
3 rd Place	J.M.D.D. Jayasundara	Grade 4, Mayurapada Primary School, Narammala



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place

Secondary (Grade 6-11)- Future of Biotechnology: Beneficial Applications

1 st Place	M.A.H. Kalhara	Grade 10, Mayurapada Central College, Narammala
2 nd Place	T.G.S. Vihanga	Grade 11, Henagama National School
3 rd Place	M.A.K.I.N. Masinghe	Grade 07, Mayurapada College, Narammala



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



PUZZLE HINT -

2. The sterilization machine which involves the use of heat and steam

BIOGENIUS Quiz Competition

BitSoc organized a BIOGENIUS inter-batch quiz competition among the students of the Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management. Twenty-one students in seven groups have joined the 1st round of the competition held on 9th October 2023. Highest scored five teams were selected for the 2nd round which was held on 11th October and the three winners were selected for the final round.

During the final battle of the BIOGENIUS quiz, on 15th November 2023, Team Genius (Year 4) won the 1st place, Team Elites (Year 3) won the runners-up and Team Protons (Year 2) won the 2nd runners-up place. BitSoc extends heartfelt gratitude to the judging panel Prof. Nisha Kottearachchi, Prof. Prasanthi Perera, Dr Wajira Balasooriya, Dr D.R. Gimhani, and Dr Priyanwada Warakagoda for their great support.

The BIOGENIUS quiz completion was coordinated by the student committee comprised of Ms Oshadi Gunawardhana (team leader) and 13 students under the guidance of Dr Wajira Balasooriya, Senior Treasurer, BitSoc 2022/2023. The winners will be awarded with a valuable certificate.

Participants

- Team Genius (Year 4)
- Team Enigma Ensemble (Year 4)
- The Lab Rats (Year 3)
- Team Tech Intellect (Year 3)
- Team Elites (Year 3)
- Team Protons (Year 2)
- Team ExperiMental (Year 2)

1st place - Team Genius (Year 4)

T. Wijesinghe
R.I. Udawita
J.M.L. Kavindu

2nd place - Team Elites (Year 3)

S.M.D.B. Ariyaratna
I.A.T.D.S. Karunasinghe
S.P.D.A. Warnakulasooriya

3rd place - Team Protons (Year 2)

A.R.F. Ristha
K. Sangawika,
J. Milenshiyan

PUZZLE HINT -

3. The storage form of glucose in animals



Collaborative Educational Programme with Gavel Club, FAPM

BitSoc partnered with the Gavel Club, FAPM to organize a collaborative educational meeting to improve the public speaking skills of 3rd and 4th Year Biotechnology specializing students on 11th October 2023. At the event, students gained excellent training as role players in a meeting as speakers and evaluators.



BitSoc “Padura” 2023

“Padura”, the annual social event of BitSoc was held on 10th November 2023 at the faculty auditorium. The colorful event was organized by the BitSoc committee and all final-year students with the objectives of welcoming the 3rd-year students to the department and bidding farewell to the outgoing students.



Students showcased their creative abilities via dancing and singing items as well and interactive games were included to strengthen the teamwork. Dr Wajira Balasooriya, senior treasurer of BitSoc, Dr D.R. Gimhani, Mr Lalinka Herath, non-academic staff, and academic supportive staff members of the department participated in the event.

PUZZLE HINT -

4. Transfer of DNA fragments from electrophoretic gel to a nitrocellulose sheet known as..... blotting



Retirement of Prof. D.P.S.T.G Attanayaka

OCTOBER 2023 | BITSOC NEWS



Farewell Ceremony of Prof. D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka

In recognition of the two decades of dedicated and remarkable service rendered by Prof. D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka, Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, as the Chair Professor in Biotechnology and former dean of the faculty for three consecutive tenures (2007-2016), farewell ceremony and appreciation dinner was organized by the Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management on his retirement day, 27th July 2023 at the Senuri Grand Castello, Divulapitiya. Senior Prof. Udith K. Jayasinghe, Vice Chancellor, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, and Prof. J.C. Edirisinghe, Dean Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, and all academic staff of the faculty and ICT Unit Makandura joined this occasion to express their appreciation and to wish happy retirement life to Chair Professor D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka.



PUZZLE HINT -



5. A microorganism that performs photosynthesis by utilizing light

Felicitation of Prof. D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka

The Institute of Biology felicitated Prof. D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka, a fellow of the Institute in recognition of his invaluable services rendered to the fields of genetics and plant breeding, molecular biology, and biotechnology at its 43rd Annual Sessions held on 22nd September 2023 at Ariyana Reach Hotel, Maharagama. Dr Wajira Balasooriya, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biotechnology, FAPM, WUSL presented the citation of Prof. D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka during this felicitation.



Day-out Gathering of the Department of Biotechnology

Department of Biotechnology organized the Day Out Gathering to appreciate the invaluable outstanding service rendered by Chair Professor D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka during the last two decades as the great leader of the Department of Biotechnology, at the Camelot Beach Hotel

With Chair Professor D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka and his family. Retired former Vice-chancellor of the Waymaba University of Sri Lanka, Emeritus Professor S.J.B.A. Jayasekara and Prof. K. Vivehanthan also joined with this occasion as past academic leaders of the Department of Biotechnology to express their deepest appreciation for the remarkable service of Prof. D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka who made the great milestone by stepping into the initiation of Department of Biotechnology while adding new Biotechnology specialization area to the B.Sc. Agriculture Degree Program.



Tree-Planting Programme with Tree for Life Society, FAPM

BitSoc jointly organized a Tree-Planting event with the Tree for Life Society, FAPM at the faculty premises on the 23rd of November 2023. The students have gathered as a collective force to contribute to the beautification of faculty premises and express their shared commitment to sustainable development.



New Recruitment

Mr Lalinka Herath joined the Department of Biotechnology as a Lecturer (Contract Basis) with effect from 08th November 2023.

Mr Herath is in the final stages of completing his Ph.D. research titled "Development of Novel Genetically Engineered Organisms for Heavy Metal-Sensitive Biosensing Applications." His research interests are oriented towards the development of advanced genetic logic gates and bio-circuits with applications spanning various environmental domains.



PUZZLE HINT -



6. The test used to separate other carbohydrate forms from polysaccharides



Advanced Certificate in Plant Tissue Culture

The First Short Course of the Department of Biotechnology!

The Department of Biotechnology launched the Advanced Certificate in Plant Tissue Culture (ACPTC) course as the 1st short course offered by the department. The objective of conducting this course is to provide basic and applied training in plant tissue culture to develop skills for a successful career in entrepreneurship, generate technically trained human resources for tissue culture industries, and as instructors in schools and technical colleges with SLQF level 2 qualifications to cater the island-wide demand. The inauguration ceremony was held at SDC, WUSL on 1st July 2023 in hybrid mode with the participation of Senior Prof. Udith Jayasinghe, Vice-Chancellor, WUSL as the Chief Guest. The 26 students enrolled as the 1st batch received their certificates of achievements from Prof. Jagath Edirisinghe, Dean, FAPM, at the certificate awarding ceremony held glamorously on 18th November 2023 at the Pandith Amaradewa Auditorium, WUSL, Kuliapitiya Premises. This course was implemented by Dr Priyanwada Warakagoda, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biotechnology under the guidance of Prof. Jagath Edirisinghe, Dean, FAPM and with the support of the department staff. She is serving as the course coordinator for this course. At the moment, the Department offers course modules and research projects on plant tissue culture in the undergraduate and postgraduate academic programmes offered by the FAPM. The department consists of a well-trained academic staff, a laboratory, a protected house, and an acclimatization unit for plant tissue culture-related practical sessions and research works.



PUZZLE HINT - ➡

7. Bacteria protect themselves from viruses by fragmenting viral DNA with

Achievements of the Staff

Prof. N.S. Kottearachchi, Senior Professor/Department of Biotechnology, and Dr D.R. Gimhani, Senior Lecturer/Department of Biotechnology were awarded a certificate of recognition for conducting high-quality research and publishing in indexed journals in the year 2022 at the 8th Wayamba University Research Award (WURA) held on 20th October 2023 at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka.

Prof. N.S. Kottearachchi, Senior Professor/Department of Biotechnology, and Dr D.R. Gimhani, Senior Lecturer/Department of Biotechnology were awarded a certificate of recognition for conducting high-quality research and publishing in indexed journals in the year 2022 at the 21st Agricultural Research Symposium (AGRES), FAPM, WUSL held on the 3rd of May 2023.

Dr D.R. Gimhani, Senior Lecturer/Department of Biotechnology received the most outstanding senior researcher-merit award for scientific research published in the year 2022 at the 8th Wayamba University Research Award (WURA) held on 20th October 2023 at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



PUZZLE HINT - ➡

8. The process of making many copies of a desired DNA template is known as



Successful Completion of PhD

Mr Danith Nugawella, a graduate (2012/2013 batch) of the Department of Biotechnology, completed his PhD studies at Jeju National University in August 2023. The title of his PhD dissertation is "The Multi-Target Approach of Marine Polyphenolic Compounds Against SARS-CoV-2: Attenuating SARS-CoV-2 Cell Entry, Proliferation, and Subsequent Cytokine Storm in the Host". He received the Presidential Award, the highest accolade in recognition of research achievements. He was also honored with the prestigious Brain Korea Best Researcher award by the Ministry of Education in South Korea for both 2022 and 2023. Before his PhD, Mr. Nugawella had completed his master's degree at Jeju National University in 2021. During this period, he was recognized as an Excellent Researcher among the master's students at Jeju National University. In the current year, he has been bestowed with the Mitacs award and a Successful completion of PhD research grant in Canada. Consequently, he plans to relocate to Canada for a short duration, either towards the end of this year or the beginning of the next, to conduct a virology study at the University of Quebec, Canada

Dr Dharmawansa Senadhira Memorial Award



Ms I.G.S.S. Ekanayaka of the 2016/2017 batch was presented the Dr Dharmawansa Senadhira Gold Medal for her best academic performance as an undergraduate at the Department of Biotechnology at the 18th General Convocation held on 9th August 2023 at the Pandith Amaradewa Auditorium, WUSL, Kuliyaipitiya Premises.

The Department of Biotechnology, FAPM, WUSL awarded this gold medal to remember the late Dr Dharmawansa Senadhira (1944-1998) through the years commemorating the great contribution made to the nation in achieving self-sufficiency in rice production. Dr Dharmawansa Senadhira was an internationally renowned rice breeder. Even at present, the genetic base of rice which he created is a valuable resource for national and international rice breeding. He was well recognized by the international scientific community and his service was frequently required by the International Rice Research Institute. Some of his research publications have recently been showcased at the Headroom of the Department of Biotechnology.



PUZZLE HINT - ↓

9. The scientific study of fungi

Master's studies at Technical University of Munich Germany

Mr S.A.V. Viduranga, a graduate of the 2016/2017 batch from the Department of Biotechnology and a former president of BitSoc (2020-2021), has been selected to pursue his Master's studies in Agriculture Biosciences at the Technical University of Munich, the top-ranked university in Germany.



PUZZLE HINT - →

10. The principal Microorganism for yogurt is

Best Presenter Biotechnology Session 21st AGRES

Mr Kanchana Madanayake received the Best Presenter Award at the Biotechnology Session of the 21st Agricultural Research Symposium (AGRES), FAPM, WUSL held on the 3rd of May 2023. The title of his research was "Extraction of essential oil from Psidium guajava L. and determination of the chemical composition and check the antibacterial activity against two acne vulgaris causing microbes".



Best Presenter Biotechnology Session 17th IPTS

Ms Shenaz Amath received the Best Presenter Award at the Biotechnology Session of the 17th In-Plant Training Symposium, FAPM, WUSL which was held on the 31st of August 2023.



Sports

From 18/19 Batch

Mr Y.G. Shehan Gunathunga, a 4th year Biotechnology student, was appointed as the Vice President of the Sports Council at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. He also served as the track and field vice-captain for the Wayamba University athletic team during SLUG 2023. Notably, he participated in the SLUG XIV athletic meet for 100 x 4, long jump, 400 m hurdles, and 400 x 4 relay, earning university colors for his remarkable achievements.



Mr Nimesh Dananjana, a 4th-year Biotechnology student, was appointed as the editor of the Sports Council at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. He was also appointed as the vice-captain of the Wayamba University chess team for SLUG 2023 and participated in SLUG XIV for both chess and swimming. Additionally, he received university colors for his remarkable achievements in chess.



PUZZLE HINT -

11. Which enzyme is responsible for breaking down the cell wall?

Ms Mekala Karunarathna, a 4th-year Biotechnology student, participated in volleyball at the XIVth SLUG 2023.



PUZZLE HINT -

12. An autonomously replicating circular extra-chromosomal DNA is

From 19/20 Batch

Mr D.A.R.C.N. Jayathissa, a 3rd-year Biotechnology specialization student, led the 19/20 batch team to secure the 2nd runner-up position at the Wayaendeavours interfaculty competition, hosted by Wayaexplores at the Yakkdassagala mountain range. Additionally, he captained the university Kabaddi team, which reached the quarterfinals at the Sri Lankan University Games (SLUG) 2023, and was a member of the university rugby team, which also advanced to the quarterfinals at the same event.



Mr K.D.N.I. Wijesooriya, a 3rd-year Biotechnology specialization student, played for the university Kabaddi team, which reached the quarterfinals at the Sri Lankan University Games (SLUG) 2023. He also holds the positions of editor at the Faculty Art Circle and vice secretary at the Zero Plastic Movement.



Research Presentations



Ms. R.P.D.M. Rajapaksha who recently completed her specialization at the Department of Biotechnology, FAPM, WUSL, has presented her research findings under the topic of "Antibacterial properties of essential oil extracted from *Achrotychia pedunculata* (Ankenda) leaves and bark" at the 43rd Annual Sessions organized by Institute of Biology Sri Lanka (IOBSL) which was held on 22nd September 2023. The research was conducted under the supervision of Dr K.M. Mewan and Dr G.D. Liyanarachchi.



Ms. A.M.C.H. Abeysekara and Ms. B.S.S. Fernando, two passed-out students of the Department of Biotechnology presented their research findings under the topic of "Characterization of nanoparticles and optimization of agricultural raw materials to produce a fertilizer for paddy cultivation in Sri Lanka" at the International Open University Research Sessions (iOURS 2023) which was held on November 9th-10th 2023. The research has been conducted under the supervision of Dr K.M. Mewan, Mr M.J.M.S. Kurera, and Dr R. D. A. A. Rajapaksha.



Ms B.S.S. Fernando, who recently completed her specialization at the Department of Biotechnology, presented her research findings under the topic of "Formulation of an Organic Fertilizer Mixture to Enhance the Productivity in the Sri Lankan Rice Farming Industry" at the 3rd International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Technologies 2023 (ICIET 2023) organized by the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka, which was held from November 23rd to 24th, 2023. The research was conducted under the supervision of Dr K.M. Mewan, Mr M.J.M.S. Kurera, Dr R. D. A. A. Rajapaksha, and Ms A.M.C.H. Abeysekara.



Ms R.M.D. Rathnayake, a temporary demonstrator of the Department of Biotechnology, has presented her research findings under the topic of "Variation of Microalgal Diversity in Selected Coastal Locations of Sri Lanka with Varying Degrees of Water Pollution" at the 3rd International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Technologies 2023 (ICIET 2023) organized by the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka, which was held on November 23rd-24th 2023. The research was conducted under the supervision of Dr B.L.W.K. Balasooriya.



Ms E.G.S.M. Premachandra, who recently completed her specialization at the Department of Biotechnology, presented her research findings under the topic "Culturing of *Nannochloropsis* sp. and Determination of Proximate and Fatty Acid Profiles" at the 3rd International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Technologies 2023 (ICIET 2023) organized by the Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka, which was held on November 23rd-24th, 2023. The research was conducted under the supervision of Dr B.L.K.W. Balasooriya and

PUZZLE HINT -

13. A specially designed cabinet used in tissue culture is.....flow hood

Other Achievements

From 17/18 Batch

Mr Kanchana Madanayake, who recently completed his specialization at the Department of Biotechnology at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, was selected as a News Anchor at Sri Lanka Rupavahini Cooperation among 2000 applicants after several interview rounds.



From 18/19 Batch



Mr J.M. Lahiru Kavinda, a 4th-year Biotechnology student from the Department of Biotechnology, achieved first place in the 'Best Project Proposal on Energy Revolution' competition. The Green Hearts Society, FOA, UOP, organized this event in collaboration with the esteemed Sri Lanka Energy Managers Association (SLEMA). His winning project, 'Biosynth Extension for Sanitary Napkins, Human Waste, and Organic Waste into Syngas' showcases innovation and sustainability. Mr Lahiru was also honored to be the chief guest of the Annual Commerce Day 'Confianza' organized by the Gamini Dissanayake National School, Kothmale, this opportunity paved the way for him to share his insights and inspire the students based on his experiences and achievements. At a recent event organized by ICTA, UGC, and AHEAD, 'Lahiru Group of Companies Private Limited was awarded a cash prize by Commercial Bank for securing the runners-up position in the Best University Undergraduate Startup Company category.

The Varsity Battles Capital Market Quiz competition, organized by the Colombo Stock Exchange, was held on the 22nd of June 2023 at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. It was an inter-faculty level competition, the 4th-year team consisting of Ms Amani Indraprabha from the Department of Agri-Business Management, Ms L.P.M. Kumarasiri, Mr O.K.T.N. Dananjana, and Mr J.M. Lahiru Kavinda from Department of Biotechnology secured the 2nd runner-up position.



The 'Allusion 23' Inter-University duo announcing competition, organized by J'pura Voice (Media Club) at Sri Jayawardanapura University, took place on the 11th of June 2023 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Ms L. Pabodi Malshani, a 4th-year Biotechnology student, participated in this competition with her duo partner, Mr K.J. Ketakubura, from the Department of Biosystems Engineering, FAPM, WUSL. They were successfully selected as finalists.



ZeroPlastic Movement is the leading nature-based environmental organization in Sri Lanka, encouraging reduced single-use plastic usage for a sustainable Sri Lanka. The first annual general meeting of the ZeroPlastic Movement at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka took place on July 29, 2023. Ms Lawanya Wedamulla was elected as President, while Mr Akeel Shahan and Mr Pathum Pathirana were elected as the Directors of Event, and Ms Umasha Alahakoon as the Director of partnership. All directors are 4th year students from the Department of Biotechnology



The team led by Mr M.A.M. Akeel Shahan, a 4th-year Biotechnology specialization student, Ms Nethmini Wijendrasinghe, a 3rd year Biotechnology specialization student, and Ms Iresha Perera, a 4th year Agribusiness Management specializing student, emerged as the second runner-up in the prestigious Mspace National Hackathon 2023, a software development competition. This event, powered by SLT Mobitel and partnered by hSenidMobile, witnessed participation from 170 cuttingedge innovations. The team showcased their pioneering mobile application, 'FinePay'. They secured a place among the top 20 innovators out of 160 applicants.



Ms Rusiru Chandarsekara, a 4th-year Biotechnology specialization student from the Department of Biotechnology, participated in the Y Junction telecast program held on September 6, 2023, on Verbum TV. Y Junction, which was broadcast on Verbum TV, served as a platform that fostered youth engagement in the discussion and resolution of societal issues. In this program, Ms Rusiru showcased her dedication to addressing pressing societal concerns.

The Scale-up Shop was a dynamic initiative under the 'Support to Small and Medium Enterprises in the Organic Agriculture Sector'. The Scale-up Shop was a collaborative effort co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Among the top 10 innovators selected from over 100 applications, Ms Iresha Perera from the Department of Agri-Business Management, FAPM led a remarkable project in collaboration with Mr Akeel Sahan from the Department of Biotechnology, FAPM, and Ms Ushani Ranasighe from the Department of Food Science and Technology, FLFN. Their project focused on tackling health concerns and waste reduction through an ingenious approach- crafting vegetarian.

PUZZLE HINT - ➡

14. Which enzyme is responsible for breaking down starch?

sausages from discarded banana stems. On their demo day, they showcased their groundbreaking ideas to a captivated audience of program partners, investors, and key ecosystem players.



From 19/20 Batch



Ms I.A.T.D.S. Karunasinghe, a 3rd year Biotechnology specialization student from the Department of Biotechnology was awarded as the 1st runner-up in the "NITROPULSE-3 MT Contest" at the Annual Conference of South Asian Nitrogen Hub 2023 in collaboration with the University of Peradeniya.



Ms D.D.Y.T. Dangalla, from the Department of Agribusiness Management and Mr D.L.D.D.S. Premasiri, Mr S.M.D.B. Ariyaratne, and Ms I.A.T.D.S. Karunasinghe, 3rd year Biotechnology specialization students from the Department of Biotechnology, won the interfaculty level of the Varsity Battles Capital Market Quiz Competition, which was organized by the Security Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka, as the 2nd runner-up.



Mr D.L.D.D.S. Premasiri, Mr S.M.D.B. Ariyaratne, Ms S.P.D.A. Warnakulasooriya, and Ms M.S.Y. Paranavitharana, 3rd year Biotechnology specialization students from the Department of Biotechnology were recognized among the top 105 young entrepreneurs at the SPARK – Youth Entrepreneurship Competition – 2023, organized by the Department of States, USA, and the International Labor Organization with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce