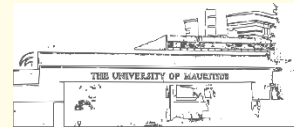


NEWSLETTER



University of Mauritius

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Faculty of Science, Nearly Two Decades Old (1989-2008)



The Faculty was established in 1989 and with nearly 20 years existence, it has forged a solid reputation as a key provider of quality scientific education, training, research and consultancy in Mauritius. Currently, the Faculty encompasses six academic Departments, namely Biosciences, Chemistry, Health Sciences, Mathematics, Medicine and Physics, and has a staff population of about 140, with nearly 50 academic staff. In 2007/2008, it had an overall student population of 933, of which 51 % were female.

Since its creation and as at June 2008, the Faculty has conferred more than 2500 awards, including 17 MPhil and 47 PhD. For the academic year 2007/08, a record number of 7 PhDs and 1 MPhil have been awarded. This year the Faculty had its first crop of students graduating in Physiotherapy.

The Faculty of Science is among the leading faculties of the University in terms of academic staff holding a PhD degree (79%) and research output (research degrees awarded, research grants obtained and the number of publications). It is noteworthy that in the External Quality Audit Report of the University of Mauritius carried out in 2005, the Faculty was recommended by the audit panel, which comprised representatives from

Australia, India and South Africa, for its impressive research output. Consequently two academic staff, namely Dr M Bhuruth and Dr T Bahorun got recently promoted to Professorship.

The Faculty offers a rich blend of academic programmes across a wide range of core disciplines, both in traditional and newly evolving areas. The Faculty is offering two new programmes for this coming academic year, namely BSc (Hons)/MSc Nutritional Sciences and the Bachelor of Pharmacy, BPharm (Hons). One programme has also been revamped, namely the BSc (Hons) Chemistry which has been replaced by a BSc (Hons)/MSc Chemistry.

The Faculty is proud to announce that an application, entitled "Developing Education, Skills and Capacity in Forensic Awareness and Forensic Science in the Southern African Development Community and Caribbean" submitted to the ACP-EU Edulink Programme for the second call for proposals in collaboration with the University of Staffordshire as the lead applicant and the University of Technology Jamaica as partner, has been successfully awarded a grant of a maximum of 481, 790 euros. The part of the grant that will be obtained for the Faculty will cover among others purchase of forensic analysis equipment, costs for the enrolment and study of two staff on MSc Forensic Science, preparation of educational and training programmes and organization of workshops and a regional conference on forensic awareness and forensic science.

*Assoc Prof H Li Kam Wah,
Dean FOS*

Orientation Week 2008/2009

The Students Orientation Week was held from 4 to 8 August at the POWA. The Orientation Week offered first year students an apercu of University life to facilitate their integration on campus. The Pro Chancellor & Chairman of Council, Prof S. Jugessur, GOSK, and the Vice Chancellor, Prof I Fagoonee, addressed the students through video presentations. Deans of respective Faculties, Heads of Departments, Programme Coordinators have introduced the Faculties and provided key information to students about the education system at the University. Mr Senteni, Chairman of the Lifelong Learning Cluster, Mrs Nivault, the PR Officer, Ms A Beekharry, President of Student Union and students representatives also addressed the students. The session was followed by a guided tour of the campus and of the University facilities.

UOM Admission statistics as at 30/09/08

Total enrolment for the year 2008/2009: 8877

New intake for the year 2008/2009: 2972

New Courses offered Faculty wise for 2008-2009

Faculty of Agriculture

- BSc (Hons) Agriculture (Specialisation: Agricultural Extension)

Faculty of Engineering

- BSc (Hons) Fashion Technology - (3 Years Full-Time)

Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities in collaboration with MGI

- BA (Hons) Performing Arts (Bharata Natyam)

Faculty of Science

- Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm)
- BSc (Hons)/MSc Chemistry
- BSc (Hons)/MSc Nutritional Sciences

Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities

- MA Economics (Collaborative Programme)

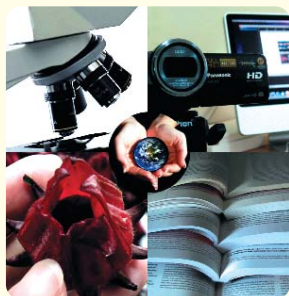
PR's Office

Research Week 2008



The second edition of the Research week 2008 was officially launched on 2nd September 2008 by the Former Minister of Education, the Honourable Dharambeer GOKHOOL.

This event was organized from the 1st to 5th September 2008 by the Pro VC's Office for Research, Consultancy and Innovation and was open to all faculties, students, experts and the public and coincided with the 40th year of the Independence Celebrations of the Republic of Mauritius and also the 40th year in terms of University of Mauritius Graduands.



The Research Week is an initiative to promote Research & Development activities to create an innovation culture crucial for the future economic success of the country. The symposium provided an opportunity for University academics to link to the business world and to reinforce interaction with Industries.

This year's theme for Research Week profiled and celebrated a variety of innovative programs, research initiatives and projects that address "Sustainable Development and Innovation". The event aimed at bringing to the attention of the general public and researchers the University's contribution to advancement of the frontiers of knowledge including its contribution to national development.

180 papers encompassing a wide variety of themes were

submitted by students, academics and researchers, who thus showed their keen interest in the event. There were around 120 oral presentations and 60 poster presentations. The invited speakers addressed such issues as education technologies for Sustainable Development, Research and Development Supports for Innovation, Maurice Ile Durable and Growth and Sustainability.

This edition of the Research Week featured the following 3 o n e - d a y w o r k s h o p s which had around 35 participants:

- "SPSS Basics"
- "Authoring and publishing of e-learning content through open-Source Software Tools"
- "Atlas-Ti: An Introductory Workshop"

A Doctoral Consortium was introduced whereby some 140 MPhil/PhD students were called upon to present their doctoral work

Special acknowledgement goes to all participants, resource persons, reviewers, Research Week committee members, the University of Mauritius, our partners, the media, and finally our much valued sponsors.

This second edition has gained momentum and has contributed to forging a culture of research at UOM.

*Pro Vice-Chancellor
RCI's office*

Webpage:
<http://vcampus.uom.ac.mu/researchweek/rw08>

20th International Conference on Chemical Education

The 20th International Conference on Chemical Education was held from 3rd to 8th August 2008 at Le Méridien Hotel. The theme of the conference was "Chemistry in the ICT Age".

Prior to the conference, an online forum brought together 371 participants from 44 countries and 45 papers were presented. The presentation



entitled "Chemistry in Daily life: Good Reasons to Opt for Chemistry" from the second year BSc (Hons) Chemistry students from UOM was well appreciated by the participants. 200 participants from 40 countries attended the Conference in Mauritius and it attracted 140 oral and 50 poster presentations on research findings, thoughts and approaches in using ICT in Chemistry and Science education.

Prof R. Hoffmann, 1981 Chemistry Nobel Prize winner, delivered a lecture entitled "Chemistry's Essential Tensions: Different Ways of Looking at a Science". He exposed three aspects of Chemistry namely: (i) Chemistry a few hundred years ago, (ii) Chemistry becoming an art, craft, business and science, and (iii) The perception of

Chemistry today. In his talk on climate change and the role of Chemistry, Prof P. Mahaffy, the chairman of the committee on chemistry education of IUPAC, emphasized the responsibility of Chemistry educators to understand the link between human activity and chemical reactivity.

Apart from presentations, there were also 5 symposia and 6 workshops

where the participants were involved in active learning and demonstrations. Beside academic aspects, Mr. K. Axberg and Mr. S. Olsson presented a drama entitled

"Chemhistory Performance" which related the history of Chemistry. Prof S. Wandiga organized a satellite meeting in Nairobi and the meeting was attended by 60 delegates, including University staff, students and secondary school teachers.

The Organising Committee of the 20th ICCE would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the 20th ICCE. We hope that this meeting has been a suitable gathering and has generated interesting ideas for improving the teaching and public image of Chemistry.

*Assoc Prof P Ramasami
Chairman- ICCE Organising
Committee, FOS*

Young Ambassador for Chemistry Workshop

The Young Ambassador for Chemistry Workshop was held from 31st July to 2nd August 2008. Prof M. H. Chiu, Dr L. Schoen and Dr E. Steenberg conducted the workshop which was attended by 30 local Chemistry teachers. This workshop has been launched in line with the Science across the World (SAW) project, which aims at exploring the practical implementation of SAW and promoting international exchanges.



During this event, the SAW website was introduced and participants were invited to sign up. This online platform offers academics and students across the world a mode to interact and have real time debate on different topics. Additionally, on 2nd August, several demonstrations were performed in front of the students and the public at Shoprite, Trianon. The Workshop was formally closed after this public event.

*Assoc Prof P Ramasami
FOS*

Education in the Third Millennium: Interactive session

An interactive session on "Education in the Third Millennium" between the former Minister of Education and Human Resources, Honourable D Gokhool, the senior management of the University & first year students was held in POWA on 28 August 2008.

The Pro Chancellor & Chairman of Council, Professor S Jugessur, GOSK, in his address, remarked that it was a great opportunity offered to students and highlighted the Minister's career path. He appealed to UoM students to maintain the reputation of the University, which has yielded many professionals of high calibre.

Hon D Gokhool stressed on the globalisation challenges and the competitive edge of Mauritius which resided in knowledge and technology. He recalled Government's vision "to create a society where there are opportunities for all, a more inclusive society, a society where there is equality of treatment before the law and by all agencies whether public or private".

The Interactive session was characterised by a series of questions asked by the students related to issues about the upshots of increased access to education, limited resources, difficulties faced with large cohorts, quality of education and professional scopes.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor I Fagoonee, in his concluding remarks advised students to adopt the appropriate mindset towards new modes of delivery of education and to develop their sense of belonging to the University.

PR's Office

7th International Conference SFRR-Africa

The 7th International Conference of the Society for Free Radical Research-Africa (SFRR-Africa) / 28th African Health Sciences Congress (AHSC) / and the Fourth African Rotavirus Symposium was organised in collaboration with the University of Mauritius from 14th to 17th July 2008.

The Conference addressed research endeavours to improve health in Africa and to foster international development, capacity building and cooperation in scientific education, agricultural and medical research. This conference provided a comprehensive review of oxidative stress chemistry with an emphasis on normal and abnormal biological functions and focused on nutrition and functional foods (traditionally prepared plant extracts, antioxidant prophylactic exotic fruit juices, medicinal plants, traditional teas and other beverages).

It also explored their impact on food security and sustainable agriculture in Africa, developing countries and island states like Mauritius. The interactions among African and other international participants helped to promote research relevant to the health and agricultural sectors. This year's meeting was special in the sense that the African Health Sciences Congress and the African Rotavirus Network have been working jointly.

The business activities also included a major workshop focusing on Rotavirus vaccines in Africa. The African Rotavirus network was established by the World Health Organization in 1999. Since then, it has co-ordinated studies investigating the

epidemiology and burden of rotavirus disease in Africa, and in defining the virus serotypes that are circulating in this continent. Currently rotavirus vaccine trials are ongoing in Africa.

The 4th African Rotavirus Symposium hosted in Mauritius was indeed a unique opportunity and a forum that welcomed delegates from the WHO Regional Offices in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean, from the US organizations CDC and PATH, and from many countries in Africa.

More than 200 participants registered for this conference and 175 papers were presented. The conference was opened by Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of the Republic of Mauritius in presence of Honourable D Gokhool.

The new office bearers for SFRR-Africa following elections are:

Prof Theeshan Bahorun: President (Mauritius)
 Prof Anil Chuturgoon: Secretary (South Africa)
 Prof Olatunde Farombi: Vice-President (Nigeria)
 Secretariate
 Prof Okezie I Aruoma: Executive Chairman
 Prof Kensesse S Mossanda: Executive Vice-Chairman
 Yasmine Cotobally: Executive Secretary

It is now anticipated that the 8th SFRR-Africa/29th AHSC Conference/5th Rotavirus Symposium will be held in Ghana in July 2009.

Prof (Dr) T BAHORUN
SFRR- Africa President
Dept of Biosciences, FOS

Lauching of National Oceanographic Committee

The National Oceanographic Committee was launched on 12 September 2008 at the University of Mauritius by Dr Patricio Bernal in the context of a high level mission of UNESCO Delegates to the country. Dr P Bernal, Assistant Director General of UNESCO & Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) also gave 2 interesting talks on the themes:

- Capacity Building & Transfer of Marine Technology at IOC



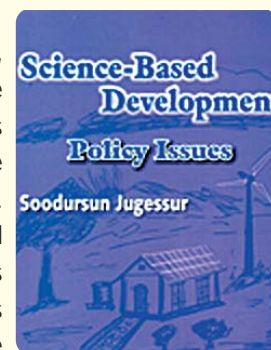
The Conference was well attended by an audience of senior management of the University, academics, staff and students showing a keen interest in the subject. Mr Seebaluck,

Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Environment & National Development Unit, highlighted the importance of the conference for Small Island Developing States Economies.

PR's Office

Science-Based Development: Policy Issues

The latest book of Prof S Jugessur, GOSK, Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the University Council and of the Mauritius Research Council, was launched at the Rajiv Gandhi Centre on 12 September. His book entitled "Science-Based Development, Policy Issues" examines the economic development challenges and the need to promote an appropriate application of science and technology. The author contends that a human centred development approach with consideration for quality of life and environmental issues must be adopted. He thus exposes the need to raise the awareness of policy makers on sustainable development: "A development based on vagaries of the market, with profit motivation and the unbridled exploitation of energy and natural resources as prime movers has already shown its weaknesses in affecting global climate thus bringing calamities to humanity".



PR's Office

- Climate change in Oceans & Small Island Development States

Tribute to Jean Felix

Mr. Jean Felix, a name that will be engraved in our memories, because it was the name of a guide, a teacher, a mentor, a colleague...



For his students, the late Mr. Jean

Felix was not only a lecturer but a father figure, who never hesitated to give his advice or criticism to lead us on the right path. He was a well of knowledge in the field of physiotherapy. For his dear students and colleagues, he always showed respect and affection. Mr. Jean Felix was the maestro of physiotherapy. He had a charismatic approach to his profession for which he showed the greatest devotion.

His departure has created an emptiness that can never be filled in the lives of many. There have been many tears and sorrows ever since your sudden departure Mr. Jean Felix. You will live forever in the memories of your students, Mr. Jean Felix. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the way you have changed and shaped our lives.

Proudly we can say we are your students. May God bless your soul

M R Chumroo, Physiotherapy student

Wadumbah Dance group on Campus on 20 August 2008

The Wadumba Dance Group is an internationally renowned aboriginal group from Australia. This is the second time that the PR's Office is welcoming an Australian group to perform on university campus. On the first occasion in 2006, a group of Australian artists presented a Hip-hop dance and had encountered fervent interest.

The Aboriginal dance group performed in front of the University cafeteria before a big audience of staff and students. This enabled students and staff to discover the customs of indigenous groups of Australia and to listen to primitive sounds of the 'didgeridoo'.

The show was presented with the help of Ms Prina Jeeah, a 3rd year LLB student at the UOM. Students were thrilled with the spectacular and dynamic dance style of the group.

Wadumba means "Big flood waters", and the group truly lives up to their name.

Mrs A D Nivault, PRO

Sports Week 2008

The 4th Edition of the Sports Week was organised jointly by the Sports Unit / Sports Committee in close collaboration with the Students' Union. Since its inception, this Sports Inter Faculty Meeting has gained momentum. It is indeed the first time that the Sports Week is being held in the first semester in order to satisfy the great demand of final-year students. Moreover, women's football was added so as to bring equity in sports activities.

The main aim behind the organisation of the Sports Week is to highlight the importance of sports and physical exercises and to inculcate the values of sports such as cultural exchange, creative use of leisure time, ethical behaviour, cooperation, self respect, fair play and the elimination of prejudice.

Each student or staff irrespective of their given sports activities was given a T-shirt as token for their participation. The results are as follows: FLM (1st), FOE (2nd), FOS(3rd), FSSH (4th), Staff (5th) and FOA (6th).

The Sports Unit seizes this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders, namely: the UoM Management, the members of the Staff Committee, the Executive Members of the Students' Union and all volunteers who have contributed in one way or another to the success of this event.

Mr A Kistamah, Sports Officer

New Dean at FLM

Associate Professor (Mrs) T D Juwaheer is the new Dean of FLM since 7 March 2008. Dr. Juwaheer joined UOM in April 1991 and since then she has been actively involved in the marketing and tourism disciplines where she has taught several modules at both undergraduate and post graduate levels.

Her research interests and publications are in the fields of service quality, tourism and customer relationship management. She was awarded her PhD in 2004 and her research was based on a study of service quality in the Mauritian Hospitality

Industry. Dr Juwaheer has also been the officer in charge of the MIBS for the period September 2007-January 2008.

The latest research project undertaken by Dr. Juwaheer was about "the Evaluation of Executive Management Attitudes towards CSR as source of business success in Marketing Practices" funded by the Mauritius Research Council in August 2008.



Ms P Gunesh, FLM

Reaching out to the Victims of Flood

Floods occurring in Bihar (18 August 2008) and in Mauritius (26 March 2008) have raised awareness of the Mauritian citizens on natural disasters which may hit anywhere at any time. The University of Mauritius has joined itself to the national solidarity movement. The activities were coordinated by the Public Relations Office in line with University's mission of Community Service.

In response to the Bihar flood, the different associations of the University, namely the Staff Club, Student Union, UMASU and USU have joined efforts to help the victims. A cheque amounting to Rs 49,100, representing the University's contribution as

a corporate body was remitted to Hon Anil Baichoo, Chairperson of the Bihar Flood Relief Fund on 3 October 2008.



Earlier this year, the University reached out to the victims of the flood in the country. Non perishable goods including food stuff and school materials were collected for donation in the most affected areas and to families most in need. 26 boxes were collected and 13 given to Mon

Gout in the North and 13 donated to families of three schools for children with disabilities of Flacq. Donations were handed over through MACOSS and the Ministry of Social Security.

PR's Office

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