

University of Mauritius



5th Annual Conference

▶ African Accounting and Finance Association - AAFA

▶ Promoting Research at the uom

▶ Mother's Day Celebrations

▶ Active Learning in
▶ Optics and Photonics - ALOP

NEWSLETTER

Issue No.5

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Editorial



Professor (Dr) A H SUBRATTY,
PhD, FMAST

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academia)

of Mauritius will become more visible in the region as well as internationally.

The emphasis on research has played a crucial role in the growth and development of the University of Mauritius since its inception. Past and present research work has led to the setting up of effective academic systems and has consequently enabled the University of Mauritius to play its role as a leading developmental University.

However it must be admitted that research undertaken in such a developmental University has not always impacted significantly on global rankings although it is evident that over the years the University of Mauritius has been improving its ranking. It is by improving our ranking that the University

In the Strategic Plan 2015-2020, it is evident that the University aspires to move from a developmental University to being a research led University. A major aspect of this vision will rely on the fact that there will be a need to further improve our research activities. It will, therefore, be crucial for the University of Mauritius to raise itself to that level of expectation. In line with its research mission, the University allocates around Rs 5,000,000 annually to all Faculties for academics to undertake research projects individually or in collaboration with colleagues. Moreover, academic staff members are encouraged to seek funding from overseas institutions/ agencies to carry out research projects which would be internationally recognised. To date, the University has undertaken 119 internally funded projects and 46 externally funded projects.

Indeed, the University must remain focused and committed to knowledge creation and dissemination in the various disciplines that academics are involved with. Our annual Research Week motivates our academics and students to showcase their research findings while our online UoM Research Journal contributes to the dissemination of the findings of research undertaken both by researchers at the UoM and overseas. Twenty one volumes of the Research Journals are currently posted on the University website.

It is therefore evident that the University of Mauritius will need to play a pivotal role in the already competitive sector of Education both locally and internationally. As mentioned above, improving the quality of the delivery of education by increasingly basing it on our research experience will be a major contributory factor both at the levels of research production and the delivery of training to our students. It is only through such a process of active quality research that one will eventually be able to come up with innovative ideas which will eventually be beneficial to the community at large.

The University of Mauritius has often been accused of confining its research in an Ivory tower. It is time for us, at the University, to further showcase our research output to the Community.

I look forward to the active participation of the academic community as well as students in fruitful discussions in view of fostering close research collaboration.

5th Annual Conference and Emerging Scholar Colloquium of the African Accounting and Finance Association

Accounting and Finance in the limelight!

The UoM co-organised and hosted the 5th Annual Conference and Emerging Scholar Colloquium of the African Accounting and Finance Association from the 1st to the 4th September 2015. This is the first full international academic conference on accounting, finance, governance and financial markets to be held in Mauritius. The aim of the conference is closely aligned to the objectives of the African Accounting and Finance Association (AAFA), which is to provide a platform for academics and practitioners to debate the role of accounting and finance in Africa (www.aafassociation.com).

As with other international conferences, the overall aim is to enable interaction and sharing of research findings between African academics and practitioners, but also to connect with outside academics (African diaspora working outside the continent and internationally renowned experts) to develop research capacity on the continent. Other than the 2 keynote presentations, the programme includes about 90 presentations scheduled over two days. The topics range from the implementation of international financial reporting standards, the functioning of financial markets, the role of corporate governance in organisations, the implications of accounting techniques in the public sector, the functioning of the auditing profession and

related techniques, the financial challenges faced by SMEs, and corporate social responsibility practices. An academic conference is a critical step in the development and publication of research findings in internationally recognized academic journals. It connects authors, researchers, journal editors and reviewers (and sometimes practitioners/policy-makers).

With the African continent showing encouraging signs of economic development in different regions, and the aspiration of Mauritius towards contributing to various development outcomes by becoming a knowledge/education hub, the fostering of research capacity in African universities and other scientific institutions is paramount. Within the specific field of accounting, finance, markets and governance, there is a gradual realization that existing models and practices developed from Western / developed economies do not always have the same benefits or outcomes when



transposed to the African or developing economies context. In many ways, the global financial crisis and subsequent accounting, financial and governance issues in developed countries (including the crisis in several EU countries) have revealed inadequacies with few answers on how to address these issues. Thus, it is up to developing/emerging countries to think of different ways and methods, and to debate/ensure these insights can be reviewed/published in internationally recognized journals.

AAFA was established in early 2011 by a group of African academics based in and beyond Africa. It has since been co-organising an annual conference with an African university (2011, University of Ghana; 2012, University of Jos, Nigeria; 2013, Makerere University, Uganda; 2014, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa). AAFA has also run academic development workshops in Ghana, Nigeria, and Kenya and is a member institution of the International Association for Accounting Education

and Research (IAAER). Every conference has attracted about 100 delegates. Its current President is Professor Mathew Tsamenyi, from the China Europe International Business School. We have approximately 115 delegates from 15 countries, and principally Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, United Kingdom, USA, Mauritius (from UoM, UTM, OUM, UDM & Charles Telfair Institute) and representatives amongst others from Zambia, Uganda, Madagascar, Saudi Arabia, India, Tanzania and Pakistan. Uniquely this year, we have actively sought to encourage practitioner participation (from ACCA and CIMA professionals) and about 15-20 accountants representing private and public sector firms have enrolled. We also have a Francophone session to enable French language discussion on accounting and finance issues in Francophone countries. Lastly, there is an emerging scholar colloquium aimed at supporting PhD students, which was hosted at the University of Mauritius on the 1st of September.

International Conference on Energy, Environment and Climate Change

The Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering organises the (ICEECC 2015)

The International Conference on Energy, Environment and Climate Change (ICEECC 2015) was organised by the department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering of Faculty of Engineering. This international conference was held from 8 - 9 July 2015. The conference was a multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed international conference on sustainable energy and environment and focused on power generation and energy management, renewable energy, environmental engineering, environmental management, climate change and sustainable development. It provided a forum where academics and researchers exchanged information and high

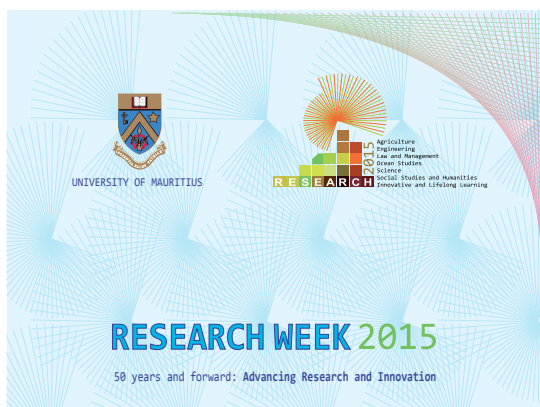


quality research findings which may help to develop policies and strategies on energy security, efficiency and management; renewable energy technologies; environmental management; sustainable development; climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The conference brought together academics, scientists, researchers, industrial partners and engineers to discuss the recent developments in the areas of clean and sustainable energy. It was a unique opportunity for local and foreign researchers and academics to present their

research work in the field of energy, environment and climate change. The conference was attended by 55 participants from 16 countries namely Canada, UK, Germany, France, Denmark, Bosnia Herzegovina, Australia, Fiji, South Africa, Uganda, Botswana, Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros, Reunion and Mauritius. This wide range of participants bore testimony to the urgent need for an integrated approach towards sustainable development and also contributed to the further dissemination of good practice in this field.

PROMOTING RESEARCH AT THE UoM



Research has always been on the agenda of all academic staff members of the University. Our 'Strategic Research and Innovation Framework 2009-2015' reflects our commitment to our role as a centre of innovation and research while our 'UoM Strategic Plan 2015-2020' further strengthens the objective through the Strategic Direction of 'Excellence in Research and Innovation'. In fact, the UoM recognises that its long term academic and economic progress depends to a large extent on its innovative and interdisciplinary research.

The UoM has therefore strived to put in place various mechanisms in view of encouraging its students and staff to undertake research. It has a rich pool of academic staff members of whom about 48% are PhD degree holders and are well known to stakeholders and partners in the industry. Our students are therefore well supported by experts in the fields and also have opportunities to benefit from resource persons external to the UoM in scarcity areas. It should also be pointed out that the number of students enrolled to read for an MPhil/PhD degree at the UoM for the academic Year 2014/2015 reached 169.

Every year, each Faculty is allocated funds in view of providing academic staff members with an incentive to undertake research in their fields of Study. These internally funded projects are undertaken individually or in collaboration with other staff members. The duration of the projects is at most one year. The academic staff members are urged to disseminate their findings through workshops or seminars. One hundred and nineteen (119) internally funded projects have been undertaken for the period 2012 to 2015. There are also 46 research projects which have been externally funded for the said period. The external funding sources are local organisations such as the Mauritius Research Council (MRC) or overseas organisations and agencies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UNESCO, the European Union and the WTO. Some research projects are also undertaken under prevailing Memoranda of Understanding/Agreements of the UoM with Overseas Universities.

Our Academic Staff Development Scheme encourages our academic staff members to attend conferences and workshops to allow them to interact and network with peers in their respective fields. Through this scheme the academic staff may have their papers published in Conference Proceedings, can benefit from training from foreign institutions and can even undertake their PhDs. The UoM also offers postgraduate scholarships to undertake an MPhil/PhD at the University. The postgraduate scholarships are awarded to the best student on the basis of overall performance throughout the three or four years of the degree programme. Our stakeholders namely, the Tertiary Education Commission and the Mauritius Research Council, also assist in promoting research at the institution by providing research scholarships to our students.

The online UoM Research Journal is also a vehicle to promote research at the University by providing a platform for researchers to publish their work. All papers are submitted and processed online. As at to date there are twenty one (21) volumes of the Journal and most of the papers are of researchers from Mauritius, the African region as well as from India. The UoM Research Journal is accessible to the public and it therefore enhances research uptake to the community.



UoM Research Week 2015

The Research Week at the University of Mauritius is an annual campus-wide celebration to showcase the research and innovation potential of our academics and students. It provides an opportunity to the academic community and our partners to appreciate the research and creative work being undertaken and to find ways in getting involved in the process. Through the Office of the Pro-VC (Academia), Faculties and Centre(s) work in close collaboration to host the event.

The University will have its 8th Edition of the Research Week this year from 21 to 25 September 2015. The main theme for this year's edition is **"50 Years and Forward: Advancing Research and Innovation"** and one theme has been selected by each Faculty and Centre as follows:

- Faculty of Agriculture - Innovation and Technology Transfer: Advancing Sustainable Agri-Food Production
- Faculty of Engineering - Engineering for Smart and Efficient Technologies

- Faculty of Law and Management - Research Advances in Finance, Business and Law
- Faculty of Ocean Studies - Our Ocean: Opportunities and Challenges
- Faculty of Science - Faculty of Science: 25 years of research at the service of the community
- Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities - Strategies and Challenges: The Way Forward
- Centre for Innovative and Lifelong Learning - Transforming Teaching and Learning Landscapes
- Each Faculty and Centre will have its own research day consisting of oral and poster presentations and discussions. The week of events will introduce students to ongoing research across the campus and connect them with the possibility of participating and contributing to the research mission of the University

A UoM Research Week Organising Committee (UoMRWOC15), was set up to this end under the aegis of the Office of the Pro-VC (Academia) in March

2015. Each Faculty and Centre also set up their own Organising Committees. This year, the UoMRWOC15 is chaired by Mr R. Suntoo, Senior Lecturer of the Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities. Each Faculty/Centre is represented on the Committee by one academic and an administrative staff.



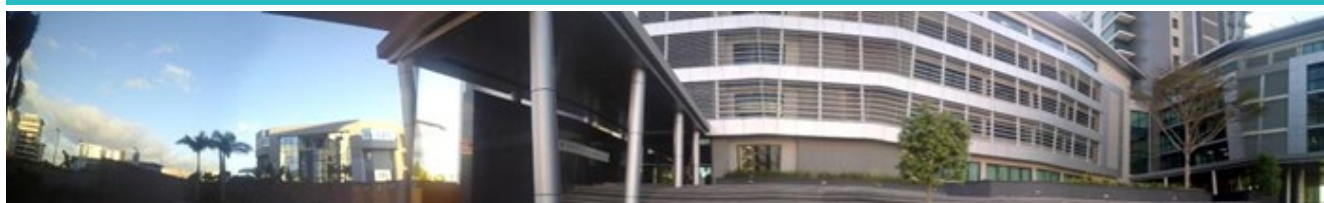
For this 8th Edition, one hundred and eighty three (183) abstracts were received and one hundred and seventy nine (179) were accepted after review. It is noteworthy that each Faculty has identified one or two Guest Speakers for the event.

The Opening Ceremony will be held on 21 September 2015 and there will be four research days as per the table below.

Date	Faculty/Centre	Venue
Monday 21 September 2015	Opening Ceremony	ELT2
Tuesday 22 September 2015 (Parallel Sessions)	FoE+CILL	ELT1 & ELT2
	FoA+FOcS	LTI & LT2
Wednesday 23 September 2015	FLM	LTI & LT2
Thursday 24 September 2015	FoS	LTI & LT2
Friday 25 September 2015	FSSH	LTI & LT2 & GI/G2

The UoM looks forward to the active participation of academics and students to enable the institution to drive forward its research mission.

E-Learning @UoM – Turn Editing On!



The CILL conducted a series of Workshops on the Moodle Learning Content Management System (LCMS) from the 6th to the 10th July 2015. A total of 72 lecturers participated in the workshops for this session, and to date we have around 90 academics who have already set up their Moodle accounts and are using the platform to support their teaching. Using an LMS is beneficial to both students and lecturers as they can track their performance and get two-way feedback through the online discussion fora and the grading systems inbuilt into the Moodle LCMS. Many

lecturers use emails to send students notes and learning resources, however it is much easier to upload and organize PowerPoints, PDFs, Video links and other resources using the e-learning platform. Student engagement, participation and performance can be much simpler to manage in an online environment.

If you are interested in learning more about the e-learning tools and possibilities at the University, please contact *Dr Santally* - m.santally@uom.ac.mu.

Freshers on Campus

Induction Week 2015

During the Induction Week 2015 which was held from Monday 27 July to Friday 31 July, some 3000 students experienced their first day on the University of Mauritius campus. Greeted with a mixed feeling of excitement and apprehension, the Induction Week acts as a stepping stone to a much longer academic journey where they are expected to learn to develop their capacities and skills. This event, which is a long-standing tradition, was an opportunity for those students to get acquainted with the campus, the University's array of resources and facilities and to be provided with an in-depth overview



of how the institution works.

A dedicated team comprising of representatives from the Students' Union and members of administrative staff warmly welcomed the newcomers and guided them to the auditorium where they would be meeting with their respective Deans, teaching and non teaching staff members as well as student mentors.

All necessary arrangements were made by the Induction Week Organising Committee which was chaired by Associate Professor Chandni Appadoo. This ensured the smooth running of this special occasion and a successful interaction between the newcomers and their peers.

A number of new initiatives were also taken by the Organising Committee in terms of efficiency measures and harmonisation of the existing orientation practice at the different Faculties/Centres namely the e-submission of induction letters, the printing of Student Informative Cards, the design of a template for the Induction Programme, an updated version of a Video Presentation about the UoM and a more



user-friendly 'New Students' e-kit'. Faculty and Centre Representatives made every possible effort to help the new students adapt to their new environment, both academically and socially.

The Faculty of Law and Management with around 1000 students was the first Faculty to open the Induction Week followed by the Faculty of Studies and Humanities, the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Science with some 900, 800 and 400 students on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, respectively. On the very first day of the Induction Session which targeted the Faculty of Science, the Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academia) and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Planning & Resources) were all present to mark this special day with the new first year students. On the last day of the event, parallel sessions for the Faculty of Agriculture and the Centre



for Innovative and Lifelong Learning (CILL) were held. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academia), Professor Anwar Hussein Subratty, during his address at CILL Induction Session, emphasised on the importance of quality education.

Upon their arrival at the Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium and other lecture theatres, students were provided with an informative card with details pertaining to

their respective Faculty/Centre so as to facilitate their mobility across campus. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Romeela Mohee, who was present at the Induction sessions and also addressed the audience, congratulated the students for having secured a seat to pursue their studies at the University of Mauritius and wished them a fruitful journey in their future endeavours as well as a positive learning experience during their stay at the UoM.

This was followed by the Video Presentation on the UoM where emphasis was placed on the very rich history of the institution which was created in 1965 and which celebrated its 50 years of existence in 2015. Moreover, the 'New Students' e-kit', a user friendly online kit containing information on campus policies, rules and regulations, important dates and links amongst others, was also unveiled. After

refreshments, the second and third year student mentors shared their experiences as well as their practical knowledge on student life.

A guided tour of the campus was then conducted to enable the newcomers to discover the various facilities together with the sports and leisure activities available at UoM.

Through the support of the Senior Management team, the continuous effort and dedication of the University staff involved in the organisation of the event at all levels and the generous contribution of our sponsors namely Nescafé and the SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd, the Induction Week for the Academic Year 2015/16 was a success. Another key feature of this Induction session was the stall managed by The Mauritius Red Cross Society with the aim of recruiting new members.

Histoire

Le 27 août 2015, a eu lieu, à l'université de Maurice, le lancement du livre *Traites, esclavage et transitions vers l'engagisme, Perspectives nouvelles sur les Mascareignes et le sud-ouest de l'océan Indien*, édité par Vijaya Teelock et Thomas Vernet. Il s'agit de la réédition des extraits d'une première publication, faite à la suite du colloque *Traites, esclavage et transition vers l'engagisme à l'île Maurice et aux Mascareignes, 1715-1840*, tenu en 2011, et organisé par le Truth and Justice Commission. Afin de rendre les textes accessibles à un public plus large, les communications sélectionnées ont été simplifiées et publiées en français et en anglais. Pour rappel, ce colloque a abordé l'île Maurice et les Mascareignes, et a permis d'analyser les thématiques suivantes : l'esclavage à l'Île de France, les historiographies convergentes, la traite (avec les réseaux négriers et les agents du négoce français), l'engagisme et l'héritage contemporain de l'esclavage à Maurice. Les contributions sont variées, avec des communications de jeunes chercheurs tout comme celles de chercheurs aguerris. Tous s'efforcent cependant de donner une représentation nouvelle aux thématiques. Cet ouvrage se termine par une bibliographie ordonnée, construite à partir des lectures faites par les contributeurs.



CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Regional Climate Smart Agriculture Policy Dialogue in Lusaka, Zambia

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) held a Regional CSA Policy Dialogue from the 26-28th August 2015 in Lusaka, Zambia in anticipation of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Paris in December 2015. The theme of the workshop was centered around 'Creating an Enabling Environment for Scaling up CSA: The Road to Paris' and its main objectives were to share findings of a CSA policy scoping study undertaken jointly by 15 countries as well as chart a way forward on how best to develop synergies among different stakeholders and sectors.

FANRPAN is a regional multi-stakeholder policy research and advocacy network that brings together various countries of Africa including Mauritius. One of the goals of FANRPAN is to implement a number of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) projects supported by Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Common



Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), CORAF/WECAEC, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). CSA deals with agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes greenhouse gases (mitigation), and enhances the achievement of national food security and development goals.

Mr Shane Hardwar, academic from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius was the panelist for a session on "Strengthening the Capacity for Climate Smart Agriculture Research and Training" during which pertinent questions relating to capacity development and measures taken to render existing academic curricula more receptive to the current climate change situation were addressed.

SELAMAT

Safety enhancement of Edible products, Legislation, Analysis and Management with AAA countries, by mutual Training & Research

The Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Mauritius hosted a one day International Symposium on Food Safety in collaboration with the SELAMAT (Safety enhancement of Edible products, Legislation, Analysis and Management with AAA countries, by mutual Training & Research) Consortium - a unique partnership of science-based organisations working together in the area of food safety on activities of mutual benefit.

The event was held on the 16th of July 2015 at the Lecture Theatre 2 of the New Academic Complex. Sponsors of the workshop included University of Mauritius, Tertiary Education Commission, SKC Foods Ltd, Food and Allied Group, Les Moulins de La Concorde, Change Act and Phoenix Beverages Ltd as well as SELAMAT. There were a total of 19 international delegates from the Netherlands, United



Kingdom, France, Portugal, Republic of China, Russia, Nigeria and South Africa and 113 local participants including representatives from both the public and private sectors, academia, consumer organisation and independent consultants in the field. The symposium opened with a speech from the Chancellor of the University of Mauritius, Dr. Jean Claude Autrey, which then segued to a keynote address given by Dr T Masami of the Food and Agriculture Organisation. This was followed by a series of technical presentations by leading experts addressing key topics namely risk assessment, food fraud and global best practices in food safety. Not only was the scientific value of the conference well appreciated, participants also availed themselves of opportunities to network with peers and international delegates during the course of the day.

Active Learning in Optics and Photonics (ALOP)

**Report on the ALOP workshop held in Mauritius,
20-24 July 2015**

The year 2015 has been proclaimed as the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL 2015). In this context, the University of Mauritius is organising a series of activities.

As part of IYL 2015, the University of Mauritius hosted the ALOP workshop from 20th to 24th July 2015. The ALOP workshop is directed by Prof Joe Niemela (ICTP, Italy) and was conducted by four facilitators namely Prof David R. Sokoloff (University of Oregon, USA), Prof Souad Lamar (University of Tunis, Tunisia), Mr Scott Daniel (Swinburne University, Australia), Prof Alexander Mazzolini (Swinburne University, Australia).

The workshop was sponsored by UNESCO and the International Centre of Theoretical Physics. The objectives of the workshop were:

- To promote teaching of optics and photonics (at the introductory university physics and final year high school level) via active learning methods.
- To promote research and development in physics education by using activities designed by education experts to investigate students' understanding of the basic principles of optics.
- To share and compare information about existing teaching practices on the topics of optics and photonics in schools, colleges and universities.

The ALOP workshop was focused on the teaching and learning of:

- Fundamentals of light and optics
- Scattering, polarization, atmospheric optics
- Interference, diffraction
- Optics of the eye
- Photonics and optical communication



There were 23 local and 2 foreign participants in the workshop. As part of the programme, there was an opening ceremony held on Monday 20th July 2015. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius was the guest of honour. She elaborated on the importance of the workshop and its contribution to the promotion of the teaching of physics.

The participants have expressed their satisfaction with the ALOP workshop. They have been requested to ensure that students benefit from the experience gathered and some of them showed interest to promote and sustain the workshop. They are thankful to the facilitators for the kits being offered to them.

On a final note, facilities provided by the University of Mauritius and sponsorships from the UNESCO and the ICTP played a significant role in ensuring the success of the ALOP workshop. ■

Agricultural Society (AS) kicks off the new academic year with a series of activities



With the revitalization of FoA's Agricultural Society (AS) in 2014, the team quickly sprung into activity by organizing a series of events, all with the view to creating awareness among students on the different aspects of the agricultural sector and promoting better communication and exchange among students. In August & September of 2015, the team kicked off a new project for revamping of the University of Mauritius (UoM) Farm.

The UoM Farm is primarily devoted to various agricultural activities including the rearing of livestock animals, cultivation of vegetables and fruits and management of a plant nursery. More than 90 students from different Departments and Faculties were present at the event. The amazing transformation and fresh look of the farm is a testament to the students' hard-work and



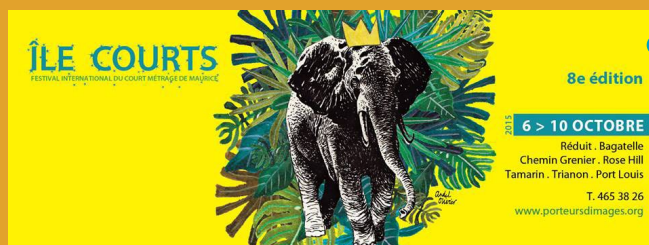
collective spirit. The Society also has in store a series of forthcoming events for the rest of the academic year, including the AS Cine Event, Go-Green, Badminton/Futsal/Carom tournaments as well as completion of the UoM Farm revamping project. For further information about the Agricultural Society please consult the facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/36470541530/> or <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UoM-students-Agricultural-Society/1521281284799264?fref=ts>

Un festival de films sur le campus

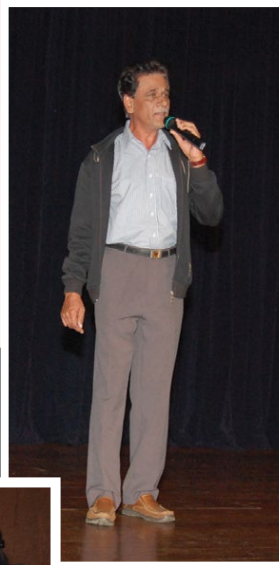
La huitième édition du festival international du court métrage, « Île Courts 2015 », se tiendra, cette année, en majeure partie sur le campus de l'université. De

multiples séances de projections publiques, suivies d'interaction avec des réalisateurs, auront lieu au LT2, du 5 au 10 octobre 2015. Les membres du *Communication Studies Unit* y assisteront et aideront à animer quatre ateliers portant sur l'écriture de scénario, la réalisation, le montage ou encore le documentaire. Les étudiants en journalisme et communication seront également mis à contribution pour des reportages sur cet événement majeur.



Mothers are the epitome of patience, love, care, sacrifice, humility and affection.

Though celebrated on different dates, mother's day remains one of the most special events that exists in the world. It allows children to reflect on the importance of having a mother. Mothers play multiple roles in the lives of children. They are our primary teachers who held our hands and taught us to walk, talk and eat. Moreover, they are our first friends with whom we share our feelings. They understand our silences and never stop praying and caring for our welfare. We can never pay them back for everything they have done for us throughout their lives but we can express our gratitude by simply saying "Thank You Mother".



Mother



r's Day

Coastal Erosion

– A threat for the Tourism Industry

Over the past few years, Mauritius has seen a rapid development over its coastal areas to accommodate the growing tourism industry. Tourist arrivals are also expected to increase to over 2 million in the coming years. This article, therefore, addresses the causes of coastal erosion and the means through which this problem can be tackled.

Some causes of erosion are:

Climate change which may result in high waves, currents and cyclones. As a direct consequence of climate change, the sea level is rising and threatening our beaches. In fact, over the past century, research has shown that the Global Mean Sea Level (GMSL) has risen by 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters).

The degradation of coral reefs resulting in impaired protection of the coastline

In normal conditions one of the main functions of coral reefs is to dissipate the wave energy by around 80%. Thus coral reefs buffer coastlines from the pounding of waves by absorbing most of the wave's force. This protects nearby coastal property. Healthy coral reefs constantly grow and repair wave damage, providing continuous protection for adjacent coastline.

Unplanned development along the coastal regions threatens the health and longevity of our beaches. Indeed, most of our beaches may vanish in few years if nothing is done.

The solution: Coral reef protection and active restoration

Coral propagation contributes to the overall goal of preserving and rehabilitating of corals where reefs have been denuded and damaged partially or completely. In this way, these corals can capture and dissipate most of the wave energy and in turn prevent sand erosion.

It is vital that we act to protect the remaining viable reef areas and engage in the active restoration of damaged coral reefs through coral farming.



Fundraising for Nepal:

A Humanitarian Reaction



Following the official communiqué from the Prime Minister's Office, the University of Mauritius organized a fundraising campaign at the level of all registries where a total amount of Rs 46,811 was collected. The Student Welfare Funds, on their part, contributed a sum of Rs 10,000 in the hope of bringing a little relief to the victims. Indeed, 2015 has proved to be a very challenging and tragic year for Nepal which has suffered two consecutive earthquakes that shook the entire country. The first earthquake, on 25 April 2015, took the lives of more than 8,000 people, leaving thousands injured and unsheltered. In the blink of an eye, numerous buildings were crushed into pieces. The Tribhuvan University, considered as one of the oldest universities in the world, was not spared.

Unfortunately, in less than three weeks' time, on 12 May 2015, Nepal endured another earthquake which left around 29 people dead and 1,000 injured. Consequently, many countries, including Mauritius, volunteered to help Nepal. This responsibility was taken very seriously by students and members of staff of the University of Mauritius whose generous contributions will, hopefully, help in alleviating the suffering of the needy.

2015 UoM Career Fair

Date: Tuesday 25th -27th August 2015

Venue: Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium (POWA)

Chief Guest: Hon. Mr Soodesh S. CALLICHURN, Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training

Organised by the University of Mauritius in close collaboration with Students Union.

Talk on Modern Marketing Techniques

By Dr Nikolaus Eberl, One of the world's leading experts - International Brand & Leadership & Online Marketing Speaker t on line marketing on South Africa,

Organised by Staff Union

Monday 31 August 2015

Conférence

par

Monsieur Bernard FRANCO, Professeur de Littérature comparée et Directeur de l'UFR de littérature française et comparée à l'université Paris-Sorbonne

"Littérature et science: l'exemple du roman du XIXe siècle"

Date : 11 September 2015

Heure : 13:00 – 14:00

Lieu : ELT2 , Engineering Building

Organisée par : Le département de français, faculté des sciences sociales et humaines, Université de Maurice

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION- SA

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS PARTICIPATES IN THE 3rd ANNUAL EXAMINATION SECURITY, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, QUALITY ASSURANCE CONFERENCE 2015

Held from the 20th to the 21st of August 2015 in Johannesburg, this Conference focused on the importance of integrity in the world of academia and research in the fields of both Basic and Higher Education. The Conference also aimed to bring about innovations to the current systems of examination audits by taking stock of existing challenges and proposing relevant solutions that can be applied to the examination management and quality assurance framework adopted by tertiary institutions in Africa.



Interview

Mr Rajasekhar , you started your career as an observer 40 years ago at the Gauribidanur (GBD) Observatory, which is run by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and the Raman Research Institute (RRI), both of Bangalore. The same institutes eventually collaborated with the University of Mauritius to build the Mauritius Radio Telescope .



**Mr Rajasekhara Gauribidanur
Naranappa**

Q :You have been the person who has shown the first radio source of the MRT after its construction in Mauritius. Can you tell us how it all started?

I came to Mauritius in 1992, shortly after the construction of the MRT. I had the opportunity to see its inauguration by the then Prime Minister

Sir Anerood Jugnauth and the well-known Prof N. Udayashankar, expert in astronomy from Bangalore . The first astrophysically meaningful data came in 1994 due to the hard work of a team of scientists

and engineers, including the crucial input of the Mauritian Prof. Kumar Golap, now working at the NRAO, USA.



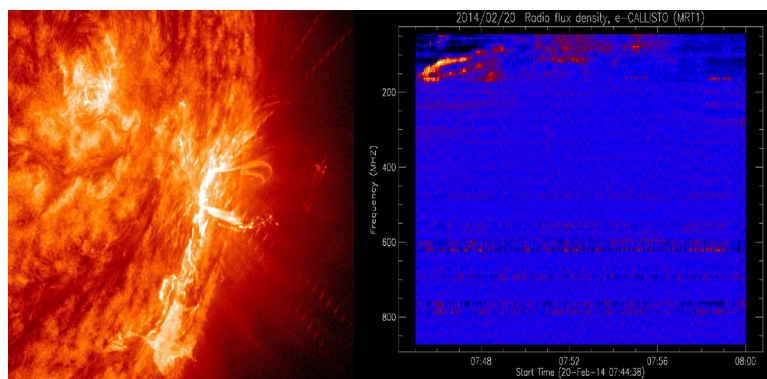
Q:You have been designated as the 'Expert Observer' at MRT. Can you provide us with an insight into what have been your major professional achievements?

A: The whole radio astronomy has to do with observations and I have been assisting in over more than 20000 observations of radio data which have been used by researchers. Supervising students' projects, some of whom have now completed their PhDs, has given me great satisfaction. I have also provided assistance in raising awareness in radio astronomy by lecturing students of secondary schools with the aim of popularising this science. "Astronomy is an old but young science", and I would advise students to take to this promising science.

Q: If you had the opportunity to continue to work on a project, which one would you choose?

The Calisto Project which consists of a 24 hour observation of the sun and solar flares. Preliminary readings of data are very important. And Mauritius holds an important geographical position for these observations.

M3-CLASS SOLAR FLARE: Sunspot AR1976 erupted on Feb. 20th at approximately 0750 UT, producing an [M3-class](#) solar flare. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory recorded the blast. Its Radio flux density recorded by the Mauritius e-CALLISTO (MRT1) (NOAA-Event 9820 + 0745 //// 0757 SVI C RSP 026-180 II/2 915 1976)



Q: You are leaving Mauritius by the end of July 2015. What are your future plans?

I should say that having lived in Mauritius for nearly 23 years. I shall surely come back and visit the country for holidays. But I intend to devote myself more to my family, spend time with my grand children in India and I'll definitely continue my hobby of acting in TV dramas and movies in Indian TV serials.

ADN

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