

CSE NEWS

December 2013

GSoC 2013:
Putting the CSE
footprint on the
World Map

ART
OF
HIGH
PERFORMANCE
COMPUTING



#CSE DRAMA FEST 2013 | © Vipula Dissanayake



#CSE CAREERS DAY 2013 | © Vipula Dissanayake



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FROM THE EDITORS

The department of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Moratuwa produce industry's most sought after young engineering graduates who are well equipped with both technical and soft skills. The success of the department is due to the commitment and excellence practiced by both the academic staff and the undergraduate students of the department.

Throughout the years, the staff, graduates and undergraduates from the department of CSE have shown outstanding performances in many fields and have contributed to a great extent in bringing honour and recognition to the department, university and to Sri Lanka. This news magazine is published to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the department and to inform of the new initiatives and projects carried out, while serving as a link between the outside world, alumni and the department of CSE.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed in numerous ways to bring out this edition of the magazine. Your comments, feedback and suggestions are greatly valued as they would assist us in making CSE News achieve its objectives.



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STORY OF THE COVER PAGE

In March, I took part in the Microsoft Imagine Cup competition where my team introduced "Lifeline"- a Windows 8 application aimed at aiding people to achieve their life dreams and goals. We were selected into the final round where we later became the champions at the Sri Lankan finals in the World Citizenship category.

The Google Summer of Code (GSoC) program took place in April and I was selected to implement section handling in the Semantic Forms extension for the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF). I also had the unique opportunity to participate simultaneously in the Outreach Program for Women while being a GSoC participant. I had the chance of visiting Singapore during the same month as one of the four Sri Lankan participants of the 3rd South Asian Workshop on Research Frontiers in Computing organized by the School of Computing of the National University of Singapore.

University of Moratuwa made history in May by hosting the Sri Lankan University Games (SLUG) and becoming overall champions for the first time ever. Having captained the women's chess team for the previous Inter-University Games I played my final part for the University of Moratuwa women's chess team and contributed to the team being tied for the first-runner up position. Furthermore during the same month I was recruited as a visiting instructor to teach the presentation skills module for the 11' batch by the department, having been a past 'Speak Olympiad' runner up

and having done notably well in the same module.

As a result of my successful participation in the NOA program in June I was selected by the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka to represent the country at the 53rd International sessions for young participants conducted by the International Olympic Council to be held in the ancient city of Athens, Greece. The following month I was elated by the fact that a paper I contributed to titled "Detection of false sharing using machine learning" was accepted into one of the biggest supercomputing conferences in the world – SC13.

September was made even sweeter for me as I became a University of Moratuwa colourswoman for the 4th consecutive time at the University of Moratuwa colours awarding ceremony. Due to the historic achievement the university made at SLUG this year, I also had the honor of being part of a special award ceremony hosted by the vice chancellor himself, recognizing the contributions made by sportsmen and women to clinching the SLUG championship.

Owing to my successful completion of the Google Summer of Code program, I was awarded a grant by the Wikimedia Foundation to attend the SMWCon Fall held in Berlin, Germany in October. There I presented my GSoC work to Semantic MediaWiki users, developer and researcher when I co-presented talk withociation for Computing Machinery Committee for Women in Computing (ACM-W) to attend

a talk with my mentor titled "Semantic Forms: What's new, what's still missing?". It was my first time presenting at a conference and I had a great time interacting with my mentor (whom I worked with remotely over the course of the project), other developers and users. Additionally I got to see the magnificent city of Berlin by visiting many of its infamous places such as the Brandenburg gate, Berlin Wall and TV tower in Alexandraplatz. Moreover in October I also received a merit certificate for the Migara Ranatunga Trust Award which recognizes students who have done exceptionally well in the industrial training placements. I received one of three travel scholarships awarded by the Association for Computing Machinery Committee for Women in Computing (ACM-W)

to attend the SC13 conference held in Denver, Colorado, USA. With over 4500 registered attendees it is one of the world's largest supercomputing conferences in the world. I was also selected as one of the twenty SCinet student volunteers helping for the setting up and running of SCinet. As a member of the fiber and security teams I was part of creating the large SCinet network which was used by exhibitors to run high end experiments and demonstrations. As Dr. Carrie Gates, head of security research at Dell, put it, for two weeks of the year it was the most powerful network on earth. It was a truly amazing experience where I got to do a lot of cool things, meet and talk to prominent and interesting people in the field of supercomputing as well as make a lot of new friends.

And that's my story upto now of 2013 in retrospect. With the hope to pursue higher studies and become a successful researcher in the field of computer science, to make my department, university and country proud I look forward to having an even fabulous 2014!

Hello, my name is Himeshi De Silva. I am a final year Computer Science and Engineering undergraduate of University of Moratuwa. The year 2013 has been a wonderful one for me, filled with new and exciting experiences as well as achievements which I am humbly proud of. Hold on tight as I take you through this year long fantastic rollercoaster journey of mine!

The year kicked off to a flying start with the release of semester five exam results where I topped the batch with the highest semester grade point average (SGPA). It was a unique accomplishment in that it was the first time I or any female student had made it to the top in our batch. Subsequently I was also recognized as a Dean's list student. During the same time of the year, I had the privilege of representing University of Moratuwa at the annual National Olympic Academy (NOA) program held in the beautiful mountain hills of Bandarawela. We were introduced to the values of the Olympic Games and encouraged to share our learnings with fellow sportsmen and women.





SPEECH OLYMPIAD VII THE STAGE IS YOURS!

The official intra-university speech contest of University of Moratuwa- Speech Olympiad VII, organized by the Gavel Club of University of Moratuwa was held this year for the seventh consecutive time.

The preliminary rounds were held on the 2nd of July in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and the Department of Electronics and Telecommunications. Twelve of the thirty-seven contestants was selected to compete in the semi-finals. The arduous task of selecting them was performed by a panel of eminent Toastmasters, led by TM Punsirimevan Kamburawela. The semi-finals, were held on the 16th of July in the Department of Civil Engineering, and five of the best speakers of the University were selected by a panel of Judges led by TM Sarma Mahalingam, the CEO and founder of My-cola and Cristal brands, to compete in the Grand-Finale where they battled it out for the Imperial College Challenge Shield of Speech Olympiad VII. One of the finalists was

Akshika Wijesundera of the Department of CSE, of the '11 intake, once again making sure that a student from CSE is in the finals of Speech Olympiad!

Rafidh Rifadh, of the faculty of Architecture emerged victorious in the grand-finale, despite the close and tough competition. The contest was chaired by Hasini Abeywickrema of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and was judged by a distinguished panel of seasoned Toastmasters spearheaded by TM. Zameem M. Saleem, an outstanding alumni of the university.

The Gavel Club of University of Moratuwa is an entity with but one aim in mind- to empower the brilliant minds of the university with essential public-speaking, communication and leadership skills. The department of Computer Science and Engineering share this interest and has proven their commitment to creating all-rounding, well-capable and well-balanced graduates by constantly supporting the mutual goal of Gavel Club of University of Moratuwa.

MICROSOFT IMAGINE CUP 2013 COUNTRY WINNERS



The local finals of the "Microsoft Imagine Cup 2013" competition was held on 10th April 2013 at University of Colombo School of Computing. The competition was held under 3 categories as "Innovation", "World Citizenship" and "Games".

Four students from Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sameera Wijayarathna, Amila Perera, Chameera Wijebandara and Akila Pemasiri under the supervision of Mr Nisansa Dilushan de Silva, Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa participated for the competition under the category "Innovation", with a project on computer control system for the people who have no control of their arms. The team placed 2nd Runners up in the competition

The Winner of World Citizenship was Team LiveUp from University of Moratuwa consisting of three students from the Faculty of IT and Himeshi de Silva from the Department of Computer Science & Engineering.





CSE Undergraduates at the Blue Ocean Session - EFC Symposiumm

‘BLUE OCEAN SESSION’

AT THE EFC SYMPOSIUM

The Employers’ Federation of Ceylon (EFC) hosted its annual symposium for employers on the theme ‘Working Out of The Box – New practices’, focusing on the emerging trends, Employee-Employer relationship and emerging working arrangements occupied by current organizational international frameworks. The symposium was held on 31st October and 1st November with a participation of around 360 industry representatives from the different industries in Sri Lanka.

One of the most exciting events on the agenda was the panel discussion “Blue Ocean Session: The Perfect Employer and the Perfect Employee” in which outstanding industry experts and young undergraduates about to enter the job mar-

ket shared their ideas about entering and climbing up the ladder of the corporate world of work.

Dr. Hans Wijesuriya (CEO of Dialog Axiata PLC), Mr. Suresh Shah (Chairman of Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and CEO of Lion Brewery Ceylon and Ceylon Beverage Holdings PLC), Mr. Dushan Soza (Managing Director of WNS Global Services) and Mr. Patrick Gallagher (CEO of HSBC) expressed their views on the emerging trends in organizations at the Panel Discussion along with the 5 young undergraduates including Hasini Viranga Abeywickrama and Rashmika Nawaratne who are final year undergraduates at the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Moratuwa. and teachers to access the learning contents more interactively, efficiently and collaboratively.

PERFECT EMPLOYEE

AND

PERFECT RECRUIT



SCHOOL ICT SEMINARS BY CSE UNDERGRADUATES



CSE LECTURER AT IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: TALE 2013

Lecturer Nisansa de Silva presents a paper at TALE 2013

Mr. Nisansa de Silva, a lecturer at the Department of CSE presented a paper titled "Enabling Effective Synoptic Assessment via Algorithmic Constitution of Review Panels" at TALE 2013 (IEEE International Conference on Teaching, Assessment and Learning for Engineering) held on 26-29 August 2013 at Bali Dynasty Resort, Kuta, Indonesia. This paper was co-authored by Mr. de Silva, Dr. Amal Shehan Perera - senior lecturer at the Department of CSE and Dr. Shahani Markus Weerawarana - visiting lecturer at the Department of CSE.

The IEEE International Conference on Teaching, Assessment, and Learning for Engineering (TALE) is held each year in the Asia-Pacific region (IEEE Region 10). It is intended to complement existing conferences sponsored by the IEEE Education Society, most notably Frontiers in Education in North America (IEEE Regions 1-7) and EDUCON in Europe/Middle East/Africa (IEEE Region 8).

Mr. de Silva did his presentation at the Special Session on Computing Education which was themed; "Shaping Tomorrow's Computing Education". This special session was expected to provide an interactive forum for educators and researchers to exchange views, ideas and

experiences on computing education in light of the fact that computing knowledge is changing so fast that what students learn today will likely become obsolete tomorrow and thus there is a need to study how computing education should change, from both curricular and technology perspectives. This special session, sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society, featured a panel discussion led by Prof. Sorel Reisman, Past President of the IEEE Computer Society, Dr. Alain Chénais, Past President of ACM, Prof. Elizabeth L. Burd, CS Second Vice President and VP for Member and Geographic Activities and Prof. Manuel Castro, President of the IEEE Education Society.

In February 2013, the '10 Batch students conducted two ICT seminars for grade 12 and 13 A/L students as part of their continuing series of ICT based CSR projects. The first seminar was held on 28th and 29th of February in Sumangala Boys College Panadura for all the students who are doing ICT in Kaluthara Districts. The second seminar was held at Princess of Wales College Moratuwa for students in Piliyandala Educational Secretariat on

March 8th and 9th.

In these seminars, the undergraduates in their role as IT instructors covered the major topics in A/L ICT syllabus including Database technology, Networking, Python programming and Mathematical essentials for ICT. To help with the students personally during the seminar, each seminar was conducted by 10 students. The instructor teams also discussed several past paper questions as requested by school

teachers and students. This successful seminar series, which included seminars held previously in Hamabanthota, Jaffna, Kurunagala, Matale, Anuradhapura, Kaluthara, Baddulla, and Rathnapura districts, allowed the undergraduates to share their knowledge with the young school children as well as exchange ideas about IT, Computer Engineering and about the Software Industry in Sri Lanka.

// Many topics including Database Technology, Networking, Python programming and Mathematical Essentials were covered in the seminars"

CSE PARTICIPATES AT AIESEC - APXLDS 2013

APXLDS 2013 IN SINGAPORE

2400 UNIVERSITIES

IN 118 COUNTRIES



AIESEC is the world's largest youth-run organization, present in 2400 universities across 118 countries with a primary focus on providing a platform for youth leadership development. The undergraduates in the Department of CSE have made valuable use of the opportunities provided by AIESEC for young people to participate in international internships, experience leadership and participate in a global learning environment.

29th of March, 2013 in Singapore. The APXLDS is an annual leadership conference considered to be one of the largest regional conferences hosted by AIESEC with AIESEC leaders from over 20 Asia Pacific entities gathering to align in direction, learn about world issues, develop knowledge and skills, network and interact with partners and supporters.



Danula Eranjith, a semester 3 CSE undergraduate, who is the Vice President of AIESEC Colombo South chapter participated at the Asia Pacific eXchange & Leadership Development Seminar (APXLDS) held from 23rd to

The APXLDS 2013 in Singapore had the participation of nearly 250 delegates representing more than 20 countries. A delegation of 8 Sri Lankans which included 6 undergraduates of University of Moratuwa



GRACE HOPPER CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN COMPUTING 2013

- WORLD'S LARGEST GATHERING OF TECHNICAL WOMEN -

Hasini Viranga Abeywickrama, of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Moratuwa, was one of the 27 students selected to receive an international scholarship by Anita Borg Institute to attend the 13th Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC) of Women in Computing, Minneapolis, Minnesota. This conference which is said to be the world's largest gathering of technical women attracted more than 4000 participants from across the globe. This year's conference themed 'Think Big – Drive Forward' was held 2nd – 5th October at Minneapolis Convention Centre.

The conference kicked off with some interesting and inspiring ideas presented by Sheryl Snadberg, the COO of Facebook and the founder of Leanin.org, in conversation with Maria Kalwe, President, Harvey Mudd College and Telle Whitney, President and COO of Anita Borg Institute. The keynote speeches by Megan Smith, the Vice President of Google[x] and

Valarie Taylor, Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Dwight Look College of Engineering, Texas A&M added to the value of the event.

The conference was enriched with talks by invited technical speakers, panel discussions, workshops, mentoring programmes and presentations. The career fair which brought together hundreds of technical companies including Google, Facebook, Yahoo, DropBox etc. , research institutes and universities, was an invaluable opportunity for the participants to explore the possibilities in the corporate sector and to make useful connections.

After three days of knowledge and experience sharing, excitement and inspiration the 13th GHC came to an end with hopes for an even grander GHC 2014 in Phoenix, US.

GUEST LECTURE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Mr Udayasri Kariyawasam, the Chairman of JEDB, delivered a Guest Lecture on the topic of Government Procurement System and Issues in Public Enterprises to the postgraduate students of the MBA in IT program of the Department of CSE. The module, IT Procurement Management is one of the core subjects of the MBA programme which is intended to provide a comprehensive knowledge for students. Mr Kariyawasam shared his wide ranging experiences in the area of "Government Procurement" with a special focus on malpractices in the process.

Previously, Mr Kariyawasam was the Chairman of Industrial Development Board of Ceylon, the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka, the Insurance Board of Sri Lanka, the Chairman in the Ceylon Electricity Board,

the Chairman of Bank of Ceylon, and the Chairman of Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka. Mr Kariyawasam holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration (Special) from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka and holds a Masters Degree in Business (Accounting) from the RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. He is a Chartered Accountant by profession and is Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (FCA), a Member of the Certified Practicing Accountants (CPA) Australia, a Member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE) in the USA, a Fellow of the Society of Certified Management Accountants Sri Lanka (FSCMA) and a Senior Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians of Sri Lanka (SAT).

The guest lecture was held on 18th August 2013



CSE STUDENTS SHINE AT SLUG 2013



- RGBY, HOCKEY, TENNIS
- ELLE, CHESS
- VOLUNTEERING &
- COMPEERING

University of Moratuwa, the proud hosts of the 11th Sri Lankan University Games (SLUG) which was held from 2nd to 12th May 2013, was crowned the unanimous champions of the event marking an emphatic first time victory of a SLUG in the sporting history of the university.

Students from the Computer Science and Engineering department (CSE) whose widespread talents are not limited to only the classroom contributed to this remarkable win with several sportsmen and women as well as volunteers actively taking part in the SLUG. Samitha Dissanayake, a member of the Rugby team and

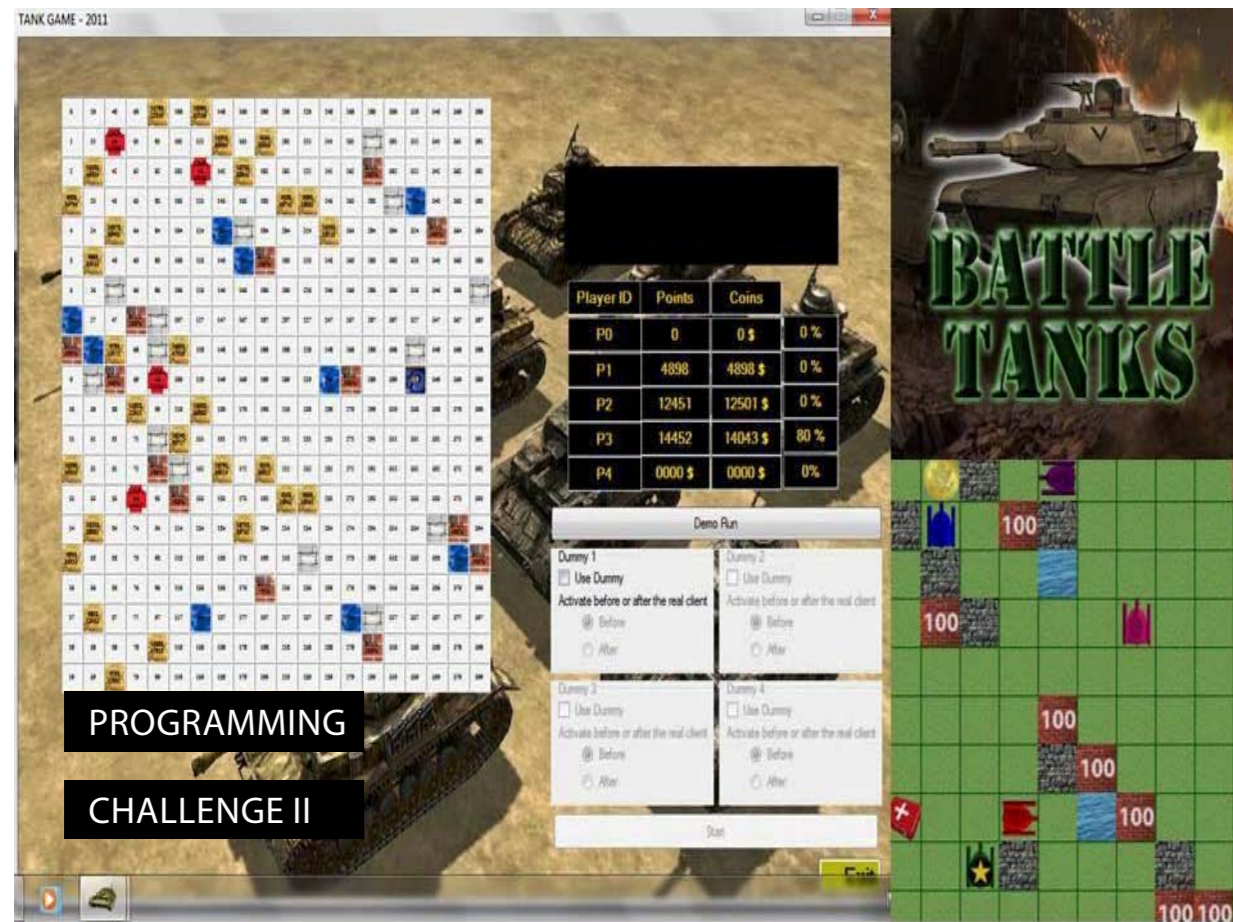
Ruwan Gunaratne of the Hockey team contributed successfully to seizing the championship in their respective sports.

The university retained the SLUG Tennis championship for the fourth consecutive time in which Hasala Surasinghe was a CSE representation there. Uresh Dassanayake, a CSE '09 undergraduate enabled the Table Tennis team to become the runner up in the 11th SLUG. Themiya Weerasekara and Sampath Basnagoda were members of the Elle team which claimed the 4th position. Himeshi De Silva who was a member of the women's Chess team which was tied in for second place before having to settle for the 2nd runner

up position and Madhavi Kuruppu, a member of women's Hockey team which was placed 3rd runner up made up the female player contribution of CSE.

Other than the players who contributed to bringing home the trophies, there were several volunteers who put their effort to ensure a smooth flow of events in the SLUG. Indeewari Wijesiri as a volunteer and Hasani Abeywickrama compeering both opening and closing ceremonies contributed to bring up a grand show. CSE '09 students along with others shouldered many responsibilities to make 11th SLUG hosted by University of Moratuwa a success.

CSE CONTRIBUTES TO SCHOOL ICT DAY EVENTS



BATTLE TANK – GAME COMPETITION

The Battle Tank Game Competition was held on 3rd August 2013 between teams from the CSE '10 batch. The goal of this competition was to develop a game client that communicates with a central game server and is able to play against other clients autonomously without the intervention of a human player. This game competition was held as a part of the semester 4 Programming Challenge II module and students were expected to utilize the knowledge they gained from that course module to develop their game clients. The knowledge and skills of the students on aspects such as Software Engineering, Databases, Networking, Graphics and Artificial Intelligence were used to develop the game client software.

The competition was held as a knockout tourney. On the preliminary round, all the teams were divided into groups with 4 teams per each group. The game clients of the 4 teams from each group battled and the winner advanced to the next round. The second round was also held in the same manner and at the end of it 4 teams were selected to the final round. Final round was held between those 4 teams and the winner of that round was announced as the winner of the competition. Following students were able to achieve a very high standard of game play for their software clients.

- First Place: Udith Gunaratna and Pubudu Gunatilaka
- First Runner-up: Hashini Senaratne and Yasura Vithana
- Second Runner-up: Nadeeshaan Gunasinghe and Maduranga Siriwardena



HoD Dr. Chandana Gamage at the ICT Day of Royal College

As part of the outreach program of the Department of CSE, Dr Chandana Gamage, the Head of the Department was a presenter at the 4th "ICT Day" of the Royal College organized by the ICT Advisory and Management Committee of the college and held on 9th July 2013. The "ICT Day" event of the school focuses on giving students new insights to latest technological developments as well as on how to utilize such technology in their studies and leisure so that students are well equipped when stepping out into their career paths as well as life in general.

The program themed "IT in Real Life" was conducted for the students in grades 8, 9, 10 and 11 and speaking at the event, the Principal of Royal College, Mr. Upali Gunasekera inspired the youngsters by pointing out that great personalities in IT such as the founders of Microsoft and Apple were once keen students like the Royalists in the audience and that they should also aim high and appreciated the role of presenters in bringing latest technological trends to the minds of the young students. Dr Gamage's presentation was centered on the theme of building robots that work like humans without the appearance of humans.

'IT IN REAL LIFE'
FOR GRADE 8, 9, 10, 11
STUDENTS



CSE DRAMA FESTIVAL - 2013

CSE FAMILY PROUDLY PRESENTED "CSE DRAMA FESTIVAL - 2013"

ON 29TH OF JULY AT JAMES GEORGE HALL

- UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

Keeping up with the tradition of introducing varying dimensions to the students' university life, the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, of University of Moratuwa, has introduced the drama competition which is conducted with the support and the participation of the undergraduate students as well as the academic and the non-academic staff of the department in order to enhance the soft skills and to prove a light hearted moment in the CSE family. A precursor to this highly anticipated event was the series of workshops conducted at the Department on Dramatic Performance Skills, English Literature Appreciation, Script Writing, and other activities to enhance and improve their soft skills. The culminating activity, "CSE Drama Festival", lived up to its well established reputation of an evening of high quality Shakespearean stage productions.

As in every year, this year also, the drama competition built its success story mainly around the plays which have been born in the hand of William Shakespeare, an English poet, playwright, per-eminent dramatist regarded as the greatest writer in the English language who has gifted 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems and various other contributions to the English speaking world. The drama festival of the Department of CSE gave the opportunity to the 100 semester 5 undergraduates to taste the wonders of the stage. Thereby providing the newbies the opportunity to keep their first step on the stage with the hand of the stage experts. It also helps to enhance the

individual and team performance in the areas of communication, leadership, time management, costume designing, decorating, motivation, change and personality development. Moreover, this evening of fun and frolic in dramatic fashion leave the students with long lasting memories of university life.

The Drama Festival began in earnest at 3:30 PM on 29th July 2013, with a quick welcome speech by Dr. Chandana Gamage, the Head of the Department of CSE and the dramatic temperature of the James George Hall immediately rose with the performance of "A Comedy of Errors". In the sweltering summer like atmosphere of the venerable JG the festivities continued with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" followed by the back stabbing Romans in their most elegant democratic garb leaving "Julius Caesar" to exclaim "Et to Brute!"

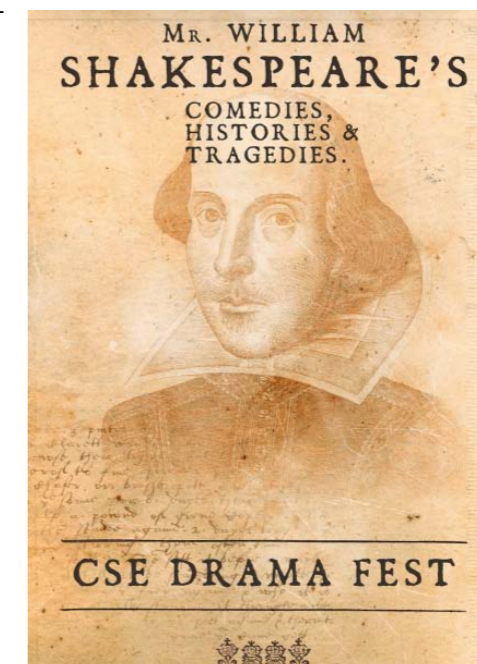
The evening madness reached a crescendo with the mad "King Lear" and murderous "Macbeth" doing their bit for human misery followed by the classical capitalist "Merchant of Venice" almost get-

ting his just desserts. The evening wore on with the peccadilloes of "Othello" leading to a comedic rendition of the everlasting love story and murder of the juveniles in the "Romeo & Juliet." The last hour of the drama fest was taken by "The Merry Wives of Windsor" and an almost too long "Twelfth Night"

At the conclusion of the performances, the judge panel delivered their verdict on the Victorian tales of woe with Macbeth performed by Laksheen Mendis, K Kamalabalan, Nipun Udara, Balachandran Sanjith, L Muthugama, Damith Senanayake, Tiroshan Madshanka, Gitanjali Thyagalingam, Kanthasamy Sureshkumar and Shasrika Waidyarathna judged to be the Best Drama. For individual performance, Hashini Hiranya Senaratne won for the Best Female Portrayal (as Hermia in A Midsummer Night's Dream) and Kanthasamy Sureshkumar won for the Best Male Portrayal (as Malcolm in Macbeth).

This year also, the "CSE Drama Festival - 2013" event was sponsored by CS&ES, the CSE Alumni Association and conducted in the presence of a large audience of students, staff and company invitees. A special feature of this year's drama fest was the felicitation of two young staff members of CSE, Ms Pivithuru Wijegunawardana and Ms Sachini Weerawardhana, who were to leave abroad shortly for their doctoral studies.

//
The Best
Drama
is
Macbeth...!!!





IESL ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR CSE ALUMNI

ENG. SAMUDAYA NANAYAKKARA WAS BESTOWED WITH THE AWARD

FOR THE YOU CHARTERED ENGINEER (IT & COMMUNICATION)

Eng. Samudaya Nanayakkara was bestowed with the award for the Young Chartered Engineer (IT and Communication) at the Engineering Excellence Awards 2013 organized by the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka. Eng Samudaya Nanayakkara is a graduate of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Moratuwa who obtained his Bachelor's degree in 2006 and his Masters degree in Computer Science and Engineering in 2010.

Eng. Samudaya Nanayakkara is specialized in e-Learning Systems and MIS/ERP systems and teaches at undergraduate and postgraduate level in related areas. He is an active researcher who has conducted research and published in the area of enterprise management systems and content-rich on-line education delivery and management systems and currently works as a MIS consultant of the University of Moratuwa. His outstanding contribution to the progress of engineering profession and promotion of IESL activities were recognized with this coveted award.

Engineering Excellence Awards 2013, the premiere event of the year for rewarding outstanding achievements by engineers and engineering enterprises was held at the Cinnamon Grand on Tuesday, 24th September, 2013. Hon. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development was the Chief Guest and Hon. Pavithra Wanniarachchi, Minister of Power and Energy was the Guest of Honour for the event. Many eminent educators and practicing engineers of reputed institutions and organizations also graced the event.



CSE CAREERS DAY - 2013

#CSE CA

CSE CAREERS DAY 2013 | © Vipula Dissanayake

CSE CAREERS DAY – 2013

The Department of Computer Science & Engineering conducted its annual Careers Day event series for the undergraduates in their final year of study during the months of June and July 2013. These events included a series of workshops conducted at the Department on CV preparation, Interview facing techniques, etc including the holding of mock interview for the undergraduates by the graduate students in the MBA in IT program.

The culminating activity was the “CSE Careers Day” in which company representatives from nearly 25 of the top software engineering firms in Sri Lanka interviewed potential employees for offering job placements.

The “CSE Careers Day - 2013” event held on 25th July 2013 was sponsored by CS&ES, the CSE Alumni Association. A new feature added to the event this year was the special media team that conducted interviews with companies participating in the Career Day along with some of the undergraduate interviewees. The professionally edited video clips of the event are now available at the Department YouTube channel for public viewing.

SUMMER SCHOOL WORKSHOP AT NUS

The 3rd consecutive South Asia Workshop on Research Frontiers in Computing organized by the School of Computing, National University of Singapore (NUS) was successfully held from 27th to 30th May 2013 in Singapore. Leading computer science researchers and prominent university academics from the South Asian region and from NUS attended the workshop to showcase their latest work and findings to students interested in or engaged in research. The workshop which spanned across four days was divided into four tracks; namely Data Analytics, Information Systems, Graphics and Media and Software/Systems. Many interesting talks on some of the “hottest” topics in the field in of computing was delivered with students getting the chance to interact with the speakers at the end of each presentation

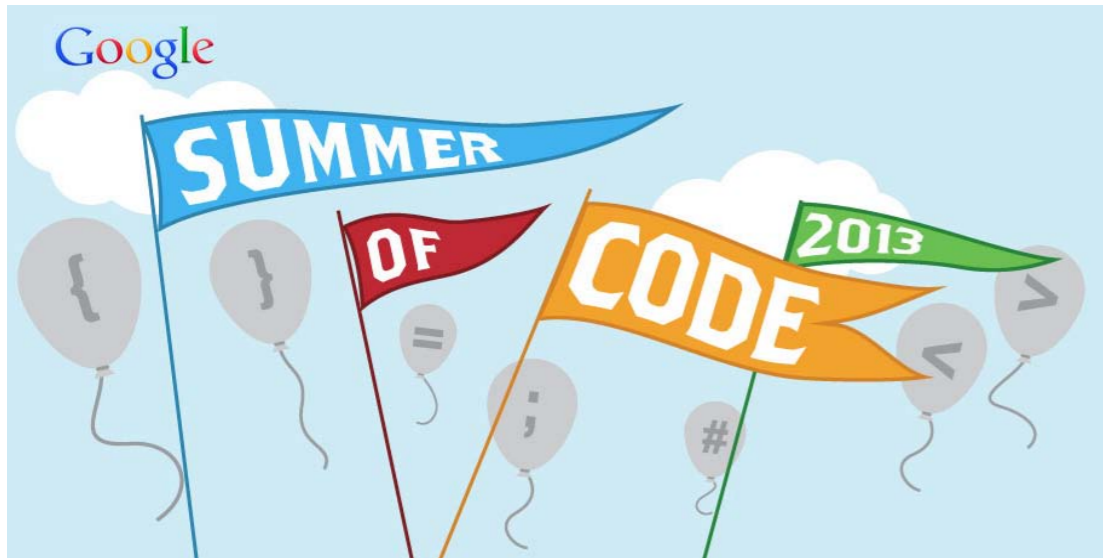
A talk under the theme Graphics and Media was conducted by Dr. Chandana Gamage, Head of the Computer Science and Engineering Department (CSE), University of Moratuwa, as an invited speaker on the third day of the workshop. Four students from CSE, Himeshi De Silva, Akila Panditha, Asanka Abeyweera and Gayashan Amarasinghe, were among the 30 participants in which the remaining students hailed from India and Bangladesh. The event proved to be a valuable opportunity for the attendees to gain insight into the newest research being carried out, explore higher education and research career prospects at NUS and also network with fellow students and researchers in the region.

FOUR STUDENTS FROM CSE

WERE AMONG THE

30 PARTICIPANTS





33
Participants
are
From the
University
of Moratuwa

GSOC 2013 : MARKING THE CSE FOOTPRINT ON THE WORLD MAP

The Google Summer of Code is a program initiated by Google Inc. to involve college students in contributing to open-source projects. As the first step of the program Google selects open source organizations who will then publish project ideas they wish to offer as GSoC projects. Thereafter students all over the world will select projects of their interests and send project proposals to those organizations. Google will allocate maximum number of students, which an organization can accept and based on that the organizations will select the most promising students. Since there is only a limited number of opportunities available there is a huge competition among students. For an example in 2013, out of the 5999 applications submitted only 1192 students were accepted thereby recording only a 20% success rate.

Though competition is tough, University of Moratuwa has dis-

played outstanding performance for several consecutive years now. From 2008 to 2012 University of Moratuwa has become the university with most number of accepted students with a considerable margin (such as 29 vs 21 in 2012). This year Sri Lanka achieved a record number of 56 participants compared to 42 in 2012. Though Google has not yet published official results on university basis, unofficial data collection has revealed that at least 33 participants are from the University of Moratuwa, where the Department of Computer Science and Engineering is dominating with 30 confirmed participants out of that.

It is not an exaggeration to therefore say that the driving force contributing to the success of the university in the global arena is the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Each year students from the department will account for more than 95% of the contribution from University of Moratuwa.

The numbers are actually an astonishing achievement given the number of students studying at the university. This clearly shows the talent and passion of CSE students towards open source development. One other important fact to note is that all CSE students engage in these projects while successfully balancing demanding academic work, much unlike their counterparts from other countries who are enjoying their summer vacation.

Furthermore this performance has lifted Sri Lanka up to fifth position in the 2013 rankings, just behind India, USA, Germany and China. When we analyze past result it is obvious that CSE students will continue to excel at GSoC year by year, making the footprint even larger. At the Department of CSE, the staff and alumni, especially the past GSoC winners, continue to assist and motivate the young undergraduate students to achieve their best.

CSE INTERNS DAY – 2013



The Department of Computer Science & Engineering organized its Interns Day event series for the undergraduates in their third year of study who are due to commence industrial training towards the latter part of the year. These events included a series of workshops conducted at the Department on CV preparation, current industry technology trends, etc including the holding of workshops by companies on specific software engineering tools and methodologies. The culminating activity was the “CSE Interns Day” in which company representatives made presentations to potential trainees

on training opportunities and what to look forward for during the training period.

The Interns Day was a great opportunity for the CSE undergraduates to get a quick picture on the industry where they will step into as interns with more than 15 companies including globally recognized leading software engineering firms participating in the event.

Each company did a brief presentation on their history, products, processes, working environment and most importantly the benefits for the undergraduates of the internship program they offer. The “meet the students” event

which took place after the presentations, was very beneficial for the undergraduates since they could meet the representatives from the companies and have a friendly discussion to figure out which would be the place that could help them to achieve the goals of their career path. It was also a great opportunity for the companies to introduce themselves to the potential employees at the Department of Computer Science & Engineering. The “CSE Interns Day - 2013” event was held on 26th July 2013 sponsored by CS&ES, the CSE Alumni Association.

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