

Newsletter

A biannual publication

# FOS NEWS

Volume 5: Issue 1, 2025



Faculty of Science, Eastern University, Sri Lanka





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### Vision

Faculty of Science, Eastern University of Sri Lanka, aims to be a national centre of Excellence for higher learning and research with the competitive advantage, responsive to the dynamics of the regional, National and Global conditions.

### Mission

Faculty of Science is to be a National Centre for Excellence in teaching and research. Our teaching and research is geared to regional and national needs. Batticaloa District has ample of human and natural resources. Curriculum is geared to education and training suited to modern needs of the globe, thereby enhancing the socio-economic development of the region and people. The faculty is committed to work for this goal.



## Faculty Profile

### Student Number (Studying in 2025)

The following table presents the number of students currently enrolled in both Bio Science and Physical Science streams.

Year	Bio Science			Physical Science			Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Year 1 (23/24)	17	62	79	58	77	135	214
Year 1 (22/23)	10	69	79	66	81	147	226
Year 2 (21/22)	19	54	73	54	50	104	177
Year 3 (20/21)	21	41	62	53	66	118	180
Special	02	47	49	20	36	56	105
Total	69	273	342	251	310	561	903

### Academic Strength (2025)

The academic staff for the year 2025 comprises a dedicated and qualified team across six key departments: Botany, Chemistry, Zoology, Mathematics, Physics, and Computing. Their collective expertise ensures the delivery of high-quality education and the advancement of research within their respective fields.

Status	Department						Total
	Bot.	Che.	Zoo.	Math.	Phys.	Comp.	
Emeritus Professor	1	-	-	-	-	-	01
Senior Professor	-	-	1	2	-	-	03
Professor	1	3	1	1	3	-	09
Associate Professor	1	-	-	-	1	-	02
Senior Grade (I)	2	1	1	4	-	1	09
Senior Grade (II)	-	2	3	1	-	1	07
Lecturer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Probationary	3	1	1	-	3	1	09
Total	08	07	07	08	07	03	40

## Degree/ Diploma programmes offered

The Faculty offers a diverse range of academic programmes designed to meet the evolving needs of students and the broader scientific community. These programmes are structured to provide strong theoretical foundations, practical skills, and research opportunities that prepare graduates for academic, professional, and industrial careers.

### ➤ Undergraduate Programmes

#### ✓ BSc (General)

A three-year programme providing broad knowledge in science disciplines, ideal for students seeking foundational scientific education with flexibility in subject choices.

#### ✓ BSc (Honours)

Specialized four-year degree programmes that offer in-depth knowledge and advanced training in specific disciplines:

- Botany
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Zoology

These programmes are research-oriented and prepare students for postgraduate studies or specialized career paths.

### ➤ Postgraduate Programmes

#### ✓ Master of Science (MSc)

- Science Education – designed for educators aiming to deepen their understanding of science teaching and learning methodologies.
- Environmental Sciences – focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to address environmental issues through scientific knowledge and innovation.

✓ **Master of Philosophy (MPhil)**

A research-based degree that allows students to engage in independent scientific investigation under expert supervision.

✓ **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

The highest academic qualification offered, focusing on original research contributing to new knowledge in a chosen field of science.

➤ **Diploma Programmes**

✓ **Diploma in Laboratory Technology (DLT)**

Provides hands-on training in modern laboratory practices and techniques, essential for careers in scientific laboratories and research institutions.

✓ **Diploma in Information and Communication Technology (DICT)**

Equips students with practical ICT skills for professional roles in technology, education, and data-driven sectors.

## **Faculty Publications**

The Faculty actively promotes academic communication and knowledge sharing through a variety of publications. These include peer-reviewed journals, student-led annuals, and regular newsletters that highlight faculty activities, research achievements, and student engagement.

➤ **Journal of Science (JSc)**

A double-blind, refereed academic journal published by the faculty. It serves as a platform for publishing original research articles, reviews, and scientific discussions across a wide range of disciplines. The journal maintains rigorous academic standards and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration.

➤ **Blossom**

An annual publication curated and compiled by the Faculty Students' Union. It features student articles, creative writing, artwork, event highlights, and reflections on campus life, encouraging self-expression and student engagement within the academic community.



### ➤ FOSnews Newsletter

A biannual newsletter published by the faculty. It includes updates on faculty events, research highlights, academic achievements, workshops, outreach programs, and more, keeping both staff and students informed and connected.

## Conference

### ➤ Annual Research Session (ARS)

The Annual Research Session (ARS) is the premier academic conference organized by the Faculty, providing a platform for faculty members, researchers, and students to present their research findings and scholarly work. It encourages knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and academic dialogue across the sciences. The event features oral and poster presentations, keynote addresses by eminent researchers, and promotes a culture of research excellence within the academic community.

## Achievement



We are proud to announce that **Senior Professor S. Thirukkanesh** has been prestigiously listed among the **Top 100 Scientists** in the Asian Region by the internationally acclaimed Asian Scientist Magazine.

This recognition highlights his outstanding contributions to scientific research and academic excellence, bringing honour and distinction to the faculty and the institution at large.

## Appointments



### Vice-Chancellor

**Professor Pararajasingham Peratheepan**

### Professor in Physics

Officially assumed office as the 11th Vice-Chancellor of the University, ushering in a new era of leadership and academic excellence.



### Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor

**Prof. F. C. Ragel**  
**Professor of Physics**



### Dean

**Mrs. T. Pio Jude Navinthan**  
**Senior Lecturer (Gr I) in Mathematics**



Head/ Mathematics  
Prof. P. Elango



Head/ Zoology  
Dr A. J. M. Harris



Head/ Physics  
Dr. Q. Y. Soundararajah



Chair Person  
Board of Study/ CEDEC  
Dr. S. Sathaanathan



Academic Coordinator  
Board of Study/ CEDEC  
Prof. S. Arasaretnam



Internal Member  
Board of Study/ CEDEC  
Prof. P. Elango





Internal Member  
Board of Study/ CEDEC  
Prof. P.R. Fernando



Coordinator  
Diploma in ICT  
Mrs. S. Thavareesan



Coordinator  
Diploma in LT  
Mrs. J. Sriranganesan

Promotions



Senior Prof. A. G. Johnpillai  
Senior Professor in  
Mathematics



Prof. P. Elango  
Professor in Mathematics



Prof. M. Koneswaran  
Professor in Chemistry

## Staff research and Publications

### Department of Botany

- Caldera, H. I. U., Krishanthiny, R., **Mathiventhan, T.**, & Ariyawansa, K. G. S. U. (2025, April). Variation of Chlorophyll Content of Selected Mangroves from Diverse Salinity Environments on the East Coast of Sri Lanka. In *Proceedings of International Forestry and Environment Symposium* (Vol. 29).
- Jonathan F.T., and **Mahendranathan C.** (2025). Evaluation of antibacterial activity of four medicinal plants leaf extracts against *Pectobacterium* sp. causing soft rot in tomato. *Journal of Science* (2025), Vol. 15(02): p.1-15. DOI:10.4038/jsc.v15i2.70
- **Mahendranathan C.** and Kothai, K. (2025). First Report of Anthracnose, Caused by *Colletotrichum gloesporioides* on *Hydrangea macrophylla* Leaves in Sri Lanka. *Proceedings of the 2nd International conference on Technological Research and innovation-2025*", Faculty of Technology, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Pp. 23.
- Jonathan F. T. and **Mahendranathan C.** (2025). Potential use of leaf extract of *Erythrina subumbrans* in postharvest disease management of potato. *Proceedings of the First International Conference in Mycology and Plant Pathology*, 2025; pp. 8.
- Kirushananth N. and **Mahendranathan C.** (2025). Effect of hot water treatment in extending the storage life of tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) cv. Bathiya. *Proceedings of the First International Conference in Mycology and Plant Pathology*, 2025; pp. 10.

### Department of Chemistry

- Jacob, J. M., Mohan, N., **Sithambaresan, M.**, Manoj, E., & Kurup, M. P. (2025). Multi-faceted investigation of copper (II) chelates based on ONS donor thiosemicarbazone: Crystal structures, spectral aspects, DNA binding, cytotoxicity and computational studies. *Journal of Molecular Structure*, 1319, 139463.
- Sebastian, J. K., Amrutha, S. R., Suja, N. R., Mohan, N., Sreejith, S. S., **Sithambaresan, M.**, ... & Muraleedharan Nair, M. K. (2025). Bioactivity

Modulation: Anionic Influence on Cu (II) Schiff Base Complexes. *Applied Organometallic Chemistry*, 39(3), e7853.

### Department of Computing

- Hegde, S. U., Hande, A., Priyadharshini, R., **Thavareesan, S.**, Sakuntharaj, R., Thangasamy, S., ... & Chakravarthi, B. R. (2025). Do images really do the talking? Analyzing the significance of images in tamil troll meme classification. *Advances in Computational Intelligence*, 5(1), 1.
- Premjith, B., Kumares, N., Chakravarthi, B. R., Durairaj, T., Palani, B., **Thavareesan, S.**, & Kumaresan, P. K. (2025, May). Overview of the shared task on detecting ai generated product reviews in dravidian languages: Dravidianlangtech@ naacl 2025. In *Proceedings of the Fifth Workshop on Speech, Vision, and Language Technologies for Dravidian Languages* (pp. 123-132).
- Durairaj, T., Chakravarthi, B. R., Hegde, A., Shashirekha, H. L., Natarajan, R., **Thavareesan, S.**, ... & Kumar, H. S. (2025, May). Overview of the Shared Task on Sentiment Analysis in Tamil and Tulu. *Association for Computational Linguistics*.

### Department of Mathematics

- Thirukkanesh, S., Govender, M. & Kaisavelu, A. Anisotropic stellar objects cast in isotropic coordinates. *Afr. Mat.* 36, 130 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13370-025-01345-2>
- Naz, R., **Johnpillai, A. G.**, Mahomed, F. M., & Oname, A. (2025). Closed-form solutions for a reaction-diffusion SIR model with different diffusion coefficients. *Discrete and Continuous Dynamical Systems-S*, 18(4), 870-881.
- Kirushanthini, P., & **Johnpillai, A. G.** (2025). Exact solutions for a nonlinear second-order ordinary differential equation arising in symmetry reduction of a nonlinear evolution type equation. *Proceedings of Third ICMR 2025*, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, 8. Eastern University, Sri Lanka.
- Gwaxa, B., Jamal, S., & **Johnpillai, A. G.** (2025). Conserved vectors and symmetry invariant solutions to polynomial wave models. *Journal of Applied Nonlinear Dynamics*, 14(1), 163-174. L&H Scientific Publishing, LLC.
- Mithushica, N., & **Johnpillai, A. G.** (2025). Linearizing invertible point transformation for a fourth-order ordinary differential equation. *Proceedings*



of Third ICMR 2025, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, 7. Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

- Jude, T. P., Panchadcharam, E., & Koneswaran, M. (2025). M-polynomial and topological indices for antiretroviral drugs against HIV infection. *Ceylon Journal of Science*, 54(3).

### Department of Zoology

- Devadason, C. (2025). Fish consumption and Sociodemographic factors on Cardiovascular Risk Lipid Profiles. *Journal of Research in Biomedical Sciences*, 7(1), 389-403.
- Wickramasingha, M., Ahamed, R., Harris, J. M., Rifky, M., Dissanayake, K., Jesfar, M., ... & Samadiy, M. (2025). Abundance, diversity and nutritional composition of seaweeds in the selected locations of vondalous bay, pasikuda in Sri Lanka. In *BIO Web of Conferences* (Vol. 181, p. 02006). EDP Sciences.

## Orientation Programme 2023/2024 – Faculty of Science, EUSL

The Orientation Programme for the new batch of the 2023/2024 academic year at the Faculty of Science, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, was successfully held on 2nd June 2025. The event marked the formal welcome of newly enrolled undergraduates into the Faculty community.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome address by the Dean of the Faculty, followed by insightful sessions from academic staff and administrative officers. Students were introduced to the university's academic framework, semester structure, and student support systems. Motivational sessions and interactive discussions were conducted to ease the transition into university life.

This important occasion helped students understand the expectations and opportunities awaiting them at EUSL and fostered a sense of belonging within the academic environment. The Faculty proudly welcomes the 2023/2024 intake and wishes them success in their academic journey.



## Leadership Development Event for First Year Students – 13 July 2025

As part of the Orientation Programme for incoming first-year students, the Faculty organized a Leadership Development Event on 13 July 2025, aimed at fostering teamwork, communication, and leadership skills. The programme helped students embark on their university journey with confidence and a strong sense of community.

Staff members played a vital role in the success of the event by facilitating activities, guiding student groups, and coordinating logistics. Their presence contributed not only to the smooth execution of the programme but also to creating a warm, welcoming, and supportive atmosphere for the new students.



## Meetings, Workshops and Invited talks

### Workshop on Curriculum Revision Tools and Methods

A workshop titled "Curriculum Revision Tools and Methods" was held on 15th May 2025, organized under the Faculty of Science. The session aimed to enhance the understanding and application of effective curriculum development and revision strategies.

The workshop was graced by the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Chairman of the Curriculum Development Committee (CDC), and two senior CDC members. The Faculty of Science staff and the Coordinator of the Faculty Quality Assurance Cell (FQAC) also actively participated in the event. Their collective insights contributed to meaningful discussions on curriculum improvement and academic standards.





### Discussion on Developing a Mechanism to Conduct GCE (A/L) Practical Sessions in Schools

A discussion was held on 28th May 2025 at the Zonal Education Office, Batticaloa West, with Mrs. T. Uthayakaran, DDE (Education Development), to develop a mechanism for conducting GCE (A/L) Physics practical sessions in schools. Prof. P. Peratheepan (Physics) and Dr. P. Elango (COSU Coordinator, FoS) participated in the meeting. The team later visited BT/BW/Muthalaikkudah MV, where they held discussions with the Deputy Principal, A/L Science teachers, and students to finalize and gather feedback on the proposed approach for implementing practical sessions. at the school level.



## The First International Conference on “Advancing Sustainability through Innovations in Mycology and Plant Pathology”

The International Conference in Mycology and Plant Pathology - “SLAMPPCon2025” was held on the 8th February 2025 in Batticaloa as a hybrid event and was organized by Sri Lanka Association for Mycology and Plant Pathology (SLAMPP) under the theme of “Sustainability through Innovations in Mycology and Plant Pathology”. The conference was chaired by Prof. (Mrs.) MRJ Chandrakantha Mahendranaathan, President of SLAMPP and attached to the Department of Botany, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The event was featured with the keynote

address by Prof. Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera, Hon. Governor of the Eastern Province, Sri Lanka who emphasized the importance of integrating innovative research in mycology and plant pathology to ensure agricultural sustainability and food security. Around 40 national and international researchers participated and shared their latest findings at this conference. The plenary talk was delivered by Prof. Paul W. J. Taylor, Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Australia.





## Bridging Technologies and Market Needs

Prof. (Mrs.) MRJC Mahendranathan was one of the invited speakers at the "Global Alliance for Rapid Diagnostics (GARD) Forum - 2025," on "Bridging Technologies and Market Needs", held virtually from March 20-22, 2025 and delivered the talk on "Plastic waste Management-Present status and Future Strategies in Sri Lanka". The conference was Sponsored by the Center for Global Learning and Innovation, Michigan State University, USA

## Students activities

### SLUSA Colours Award 2024 - Carrom

K. Kobishan has been awarded the Sri Lanka University Colours Insignia by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association (SLUSA) in recognition of his devotion and outstanding performance in Carrom for the year 2024. The award was officially presented on 30th May 2025.





## Inter Faculty Championship 2025

The Inter Faculty Championship 2025 was successfully held, celebrating the spirit of sportsmanship, teamwork, and talent across the university community. With vibrant participation from all faculties, the championship served as a dynamic platform for students to showcase their abilities, foster camaraderie, and embrace healthy competition.

Students from the Faculty of Science demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm and athleticism across a wide range of events, including:

- ✓ Beach Volleyball
- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Javelin Throw
- ✓ Weightlifting
- ✓ Weightlifting
- ✓ Shot Put

The energy, dedication, and sportsmanship displayed by all participants were truly commendable, making the championship a memorable highlight of the academic year. Congratulations to everyone involved!





## IGNITE 2025- Symphony of Science: A Night of Rhythm and Talent

The Faculty of Science lit up the stage with vibrant performances, showcasing the musical and artistic talents of its students. From soulful melodies to energetic dances, the evening was a perfect fusion of creativity and celebration. It was a truly memorable night where science met the arts in perfect harmony.





**Benzene Park Reimagined: A Legacy Renewed**

The 21/22 batch proudly renovated and reopened Benzene Park, first brought to life by the 16/17 batch. This revival blended teamwork, heart, and harmony to create more than just a space—it's a living memory. A lasting symbol of unity, creativity, and tradition within the Faculty of Science.



**ELDONOR 2025**

ELDANOR 2K25 celebrated a heartfelt journey of unity, appreciation, and connection. Organized by the 2020/2021 batch, it reflected shared memories and collective gratitude. Each moment was a tribute to togetherness and the spirit of the Faculty of Science.





The Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL) was officially established on 1st October 1986 under a University Order dated 26th September 1986, pursuant to Section 2 of the Universities Act No.16 of 1978. It succeeded the Batticaloa University College, which was founded on 1st August 1981 to address the long-standing need for higher education in the Eastern Province.

The Faculty of Science, one of the two original faculties of Batticaloa University College, has been operational since 1981. It consists of six departments: Botany, Chemistry, Computing, Mathematics, Physics, and Zoology. The Botany and Zoology departments boast extensive collections of local and imported specimens housed in their Herbarium and Museum, enriching the teaching and learning experience. The Faculty offers a comprehensive range of subjects—including Botany, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Physics, and Zoology—playing a vital role in advancing science education in the region.



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# From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the Fifth Volume, Issue 1 of FOSnews, the Faculty of Science's premier biannual newsletter!



Mrs S. Thavareesan  
The Editor  
FOSnews Newsletter

This edition continues our tradition of celebrating the vibrant spirit, groundbreaking research, and outstanding achievements that define our Faculty. Each issue is crafted to keep you informed and inspired by the innovative work and collaborative efforts of our academic community.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all faculty members whose dedication and support have made this publication possible. Your contributions truly enrich the Faculty and this newsletter.

Dive in and enjoy the exciting stories and updates from across the Faculty of Science!