



Yearbook 2008

January

■ Research Seminar Held:

Date: 29.01.08
Title: Investigating Service Quality Dimensions Through Exploratory Factor Analysis in a Healthcare Setting
Presenter: Dr R R Ramsaran Fowdar – Senior Lecturer FLM

February

■ Launching of Online Application Toolkit for Undergraduates

The Toolkit has been successfully launched in February 2008 and has been developed by a team from CITS under the instruction of a committee chaired by Professor SDDV Rughooputh. The Toolkit, available online at the following URL: <http://online.uom.ac.mu/toolkit>, displays all programmes of studies on offer at the University for which the potential students are qualified for, upon entry of their ‘O’ level and ‘A’ level results. Thus, the Toolkit essentially guides potential students, seeking admission at the University of Mauritius, in the selection of their programmes by presenting to them a list of programmes for which they are eligible (in order of decreasing chances). The Toolkit is supported by other links, including a Toolkit Manual, indicative profiles and FAQs.

■ Research Seminar Series Held:

Date	Title	Presenter
19.02.08	Psychological Research on the Interviewing of Suspects	Prof Raymond Bull University of Leicester, UK
26.02.08	Designing some novel optical devices based on photonic crystals	Mr M Makhan PhD Student



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March

■ UoM Counselling Days

Onsite Counselling Days was held on the 7th, 8th and 10th of March 2008 at Raised Plaza, University of Mauritius. The event included PowerPoint presentations on different faculties, opportunities to interact with academics and students, not only from different faculties but also from different departments. Several computers were made available so that prospective students could use the UoM toolkit and apply online. In general, the guidance days gave the prospective students the opportunity to find out more about the Programmes of Studies available at the University of Mauritius, to see facilities, meet academic staff and students, and find out more about campus life at the University. The event ended up with a feeling of satisfaction for both staff and prospective students, where visitors left with enough information to help them make one of the most important decisions in their life.

■ National Exhibition on Mauritian Innovation and Inventions

The University of Mauritius participated actively in the “*National Exhibition on Mauritian Innovation & Inventions (1968-2008)*”, organised by the Government of Mauritius, through Ministry of Arts and Culture, which was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre from 10 to 14 March 2008.

The aim of this exhibition was to ‘elicit and acknowledge the creative genius of our compatriots by providing them a platform to exhibit their creations and at the same time allow the population to appreciate them’.

On this occasion, the University of Mauritius presented the following posters/exhibits:

- *Generating barcodes from 2D/3D Images*
- *Mass propagation of *Aegle marmelos* by in vitro culture*
- *Small scale industrial development of pesticidal preparations from local plants*



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- *Minimising browning of peeled green bananas*
- *Opportunity for SMEs – Compost from sugar industry and other wastes*
- *Study of genes involved in pathogen defence in potato*
- *Innovative hardware and software developed for the Mauritius Radio Telescope*
- *Biofilms: Modelling and Simulation*
- *Synthesis of catalytic and biologically active novel compounds*
- *A Low Cost Arrangement for the Accurate Measurement of Surface Tension*
- *Determination of Fruit Status Using a Disposable Multi-Analyte Biosensor Array Based on the Use of Pectin as a Novel Enzyme Entrapment and Preservative Paste*
- *Using Natural Product Surfactants to Make Catalysts*
- *Un Algorithme Supérieur aux Méthodes Existantes pour la Valorisation des Options Américaines sur les marchés Financiers*

■ Training Workshops (Jointly with the Library)

Two workshops on “*Training to UoM Librarians*” and “*Authors Workshop for Researchers*” were held on 21 March 2008. The resource person was Mr Eric Broug, Business Manager Africa from Emerald Group Publishing.

■ Launching of the “*First Three-Year Strategic Plan 2008 – 2010 of The Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology (MAST)*”

The Launching was held on 21 March 2008, University of Mauritius. The first three-year Strategic Plan 2008-2010 of the Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology was launched by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. The Prime Minister stressed on the need for a Science-based development, with the population being more scientifically trained and aware of the need for a scientific approach to finding solutions to our problems.



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■ Public Lecture on “*The Critical Years of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam*”

A lecture on “*The Critical Years of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam*” was held by Joseph Tsang Mang Kin, Former Diplomat and Minister, University of Mauritius, 24 March 2008.

■ Seminar

A seminar on “*Carbon Trading and How it Works*” was organised by UNDP in collaboration of The University of Mauritius (MCE-Energy, Water and Environment) on 25th March 2008. The presenter was Mr Robert Kelly.

■ UoM Showcase

UoM Showcase “*Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of 1st UoM Graduands*”, a joint initiative of the University of Mauritius and Students’ Union was held on 28th March 2008. The event was sponsored by TEC and MRC.

■ Research Seminars Held

Date	Title	Presenter
04.03.08	Fluidized Catalytic Cracking	Prof R Sharma Visiting Professor
18.03.08	Polymer research at UoM: Status, advancements and future orientations	Prof D Jhurry
25.03.08	A novel technique for the measurement of Glycated Proteins in daibetic patients with haemoglobinopathies	Dr N Joonus



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April

■ Joint Conference

The University of Mauritius and Mauritius Telecom have jointly organized a conference on *'Les Télécommunications: Stratégie d'un opérateur intégré dans un monde convergent'* on 17 April 2008.

The resource person was Mr. Didier Lombard, Chairman and Chief Executive of France Telecom Group. Mr Lombard visited Mauritius in the context of the launch of the OrangeTM brand. He has generously made a donation of two million rupees to the University of Mauritius.



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June

■ Innovation Week

The Innovation Week was held from 5 to 7 June 2008. The main theme of this event was “*Empower the Mauritian minds*”. This event followed the Research Week and IP Week organized by the University in 2007 and complements and reinforces existing national initiatives. The Innovation Week provides an added impetus to creative thinking of students and to create a synergy on “Creativity and Innovation”, a theme included in the new Educational curriculum. This three-day event, sponsored by Orange™, consisted of the following activities related to Innovation targeted to students of primary and secondary schools and the public at large:

- Innovative eQuiz Competition (by SMS) - Orange™ Kaleidoscope - with some 121 teams participating from the secondary and tertiary sectors; <http://www.mediacomstudio.com/> for short video
- Discourses on ‘Environment’ in the context of World Environment Day;
- Discourses on ‘Emerging Technologies’;
- Posters on ‘40 years of UoM discoveries, inventions, innovations (1968-2008)’;
- Video Projections on topics such as Agriculture, Astronomy and Astrophysics, Comic Series on IPR, Brain Teasers, Optical Illusions, Famous Scientists & Inventors, Save Our Planet;
- Exhibitions;
- Hands-on Clinics/Workshops;
- Workshops on Innovative Learning Technologies;
- Demonstrations;
- Sci-Fi Movies;
- InnovUMN (Creativity, Critical Thinking and Enrichment programmes),
- Guided Tours of the University Farm and the Mauritius Radio Telescope Observatory;
- Innovative Sketch by University Students.





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■ Seminar

A seminar on “***Analyse électrique et spectroscopique des décharges a barrières diélectriques dans l'argon et le xenon purs***” was organized by MCE(Energy, Water and Environment) on 9 June 2008. The resource person was Dr. Neemalsing Sewraj (Universite Paul Sabatier, Toulouse III).

■ Research Seminars Held

Date	Title	Presenters
19.06.08	Mechatronics and Robotics Research for Advanced Manufacturing System	Prof G Bright External Examiner University of Kuazulu Natal South Africa
30.06.08	Trends in Computing - A Semantic Perspective	Prof T V Geetha External Examiner Anna University, Chennai



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July

- 7th Annual Conference of the Society for Free Radical Research Africa; 4th African Rotavirus Symposium; 28th African Health Sciences Congress, 14-18 July 2008, POWA, University of Mauritius.

Research Seminars Held

Date	Title	Presenter
02.07.08	Prolamin Protein and Starch from African Cereals as Functional Polymers	Dr M N Emmambux, University of Pretoria, South Africa
04.07.08	Green Chemistry an ecofriendly Chemistry	Dr B S Garg, University of Delhi, India
09.07.08	Undergraduate Physics Students' Understanding of Measurement and Uncertainty	Prof A Buffler & Ms B Ibrahim, University of Cape Town & Mr F Lubben, University of York, UK
11.07.08	Grantsmanship and Strategies for Sustainable Research Infrastructure	Prof O L Aruoma FRSC, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Touro College of Pharmacy, New York, USA



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September

■ Research Week 2008

Research Week 2008 profiled and celebrated a variety of innovative programs, research initiatives and projects that address “**Sustainable Development and Innovation**”. The event aimed at bringing to the attention of the general public and researchers the University’s contribution to advancement of the frontiers of knowledge including its contribution to national development.

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

- ✓ 180 papers encompassing all themes were submitted by students, academics and researchers, showing their keen interest in the event.
- ✓ This edition of the Research Week featured 3 one-day workshops and around had 35 participants:
 - “SPSS Basics”;
 - “Authoring and publishing of e-learning content through open-Source Software Tools”;
 - “Atlas-Ti: An Introductory Workshop”.
- ✓ A Doctoral Consortium was introduced whereby some 140 MPhil/PhD students were called upon to present their doctoral work

■ Talk on Gastification of Biomass for Biofuels and Power Generation

A talk on “*Gastification of Biomass for Biofuels and Power Generation*” was organized by The Multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence (MCE) Energy, Environment & Water, in collaboration with UNDP on 10th September 2008 in LT2, University of Mauritius. The resource person was Franck Al Shakarchi and Lars Waldheim of TPS Termiska Processor AB.



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■ Research Seminars Held

Date	Title	Presenter
12.09.08	Some Legal Aspects of Climate Change: Causes and Consequences (<i>presentation with respect to Vacation Research Scheme 2008</i>)	Miss D Hazareesing
12.09.08	Les Armes de Destruction Massives et l'Environnement	Dr R P Gunpath Senior Lecturer Faculty of Law and Management
23.09.08	Le Droit Mixte : Enjeux et Contraintes Juridiques	Dr R P Gunpath Senior Lecturer Faculty of Law and Management
23.09.08	The New Developments of African Law: Beyond the Differences between the Common Law and the Civil Law	Prof S Mancuso
25.09.08	Political Party Funding	Mr Jacques de Navacelle - PDT TM Mr Raj Makoond - Director (Joint Economic Council) Mr Reez Chuttoo President (Front Syndical Setker Privee)
26.09.08	The Influence of Kalidasa on Shakespeare	Prof Vijay Mishra Professor of English literature at Murdoch University



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October

■ Foresight Arena – MOOT Competition

A MOOT Competition on “Political Fundings” was organized on 2nd October 2008 by Dr RP Gunpath- Head of Department of Law. Students of LLB III and LLB II debated on the pros of political fundings and cons of political fundings.

■ Research Seminars Held

Date	Title	Presenter
09.10.08	Frobenius Norm Minimization and Probing for Preconditioning	Prof Thomas Huckle, Technische Universitat Munchen, Germany
10.10.08	New Pedagogical Perspective for Tertiary Education	Dr V Subramania, Consultant on Higher Education



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November

■ Interactive Session with Hon Minister of Industry, Science and Research, D.Gokhool.

An Interactive Session between the Hon Minister of Industry, Science and Research, D. Gokhool and Academics/Researchers was held on 20 November 2008 in ELT2, University of Mauritius.

■ Research Seminars Held

Date	Title	Presenter
04.11.08	Civil Procedure in England and France	Dr Deirdre Droyer Barrister of Lincoln's Inn British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow University of Oxford
11.11.08	Using case study approach in social research: problems and prospects	Assoc Prof O N Varma, MIE
20.11.08	Emerging Plant Species with High Phytochemical Content: from crop selection to alternative markets	Assoc Prof Luis Cisneros-Zevallos Texas A & M University USA
28.11.08	Implications of Ethical Development in Accounting	Mr A Teelokee MPhil/PhD Student Faculty of Law and Management



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December

■ Sidecap Workshop

A Sidecap Workshop was organized by VCILT on the 04 December 2008. It included Hands on session on OERs (Open Education Resources) and DEOL (Distance Education and Online Learning)authoring with Open Source Tools, led by Prof R. Mason and University of Mauritius VCILT team.

■ Research Seminars Held

Date	Title	Presenter
02.12.08	The Cluster Security Gateway (CSG) Arthitecture: A New Security Model For Robust Cluster and Distributed Network Security	Mr V Ramsurrun MPhil/PhD Student Faculty of Engineering

EVD