

Messages from Lecturers of the Graduateship Programme in Chemistry

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It gives me great pleasure to send this short message on the occasion of the convocation of College of Chemical Sciences, Institute of Chemistry. I have been associated with the Graduateship Course since 1985 and have enjoyed serving as lecturer and examiner.

The Graduateship Course has provided opportunity to those unable to enter state universities to obtain specialization in the field of chemistry, which is regarded as the central science. In addition to a comprehensive course in chemistry, the students are exposed to other important areas such as IT and management. It is a remarkable achievement for a professional institute of this nature to produce professionally qualified Graduate Chemists, whose qualifications are well recognized by private sector and state sector industry. Many of the students find employment in the area of research and development, quality control or at the managerial level. Those who wish to pursue higher studies either in Sri Lanka or abroad encounter no difficulty in registering for M.Sc, M.Phil or Ph.D programs.

It is a proud achievement that the Graduateship Course has continued upto date since its inception in 1979 without any hiccups whatsoever and has now produced the 25th batch of professionally qualified Graduate Chemists. The smooth running of this course has been achieved by the meticulous planning of the program by the Honorary Dean of the College, willingly assisted by academics from many of the universities as well as by industrialist and personnel from research institutes in Sri Lanka.

I wish to congratulate the 25th batch of professional qualified Graduate Chemists graduating today and wish them a successful and fulfilling career in the future.

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First of all let me congratulate the College of Chemical Sciences, Institute of Chemistry for the successful achievement of organizing this historic event of passing out of the 25th batch of professional graduate chemists. It is my pleasure to express my views about the Graduateship Program in Chemistry conducted by the College of Chemical Sciences as I have been involved in teaching Organic Chemistry since 1996. I found that this programme is one of the most successful and well-organized teaching programs that produces quality graduate chemists in Sri Lanka and their subsequent success at gaining employment at national and international level.

The graduateship program is geared to provide the students with a solid foundation in all areas of chemistry, good laboratory skills and have an interest in scientific research. In addition to the chemistry courses, students have facilities to follow IT and management courses. It is also known that the academic standard of the course is equivalent to that of a special degree of a recognized university and most of the lecturers in this program are invited from recognized universities / research institutions / industries in Sri Lanka with qualified postgraduate training. This is evident as many of the passed out students who wish to pursue higher studies are increasingly in demand to join postgraduate programs abroad specially in the USA or UK. I am very impressed that the graduateship program has ongoing collaborations with several companies and is aiming to strengthen links with the industrial sector. This has led to the attraction of many students into its teaching program and offers excellent possibilities for students to undergo a trainee period in chemistry laboratories at research institutions / industries etc.

First Research Session of the College of Chemical Sciences

The first Research Session of the College of Chemical Sciences will be held on 16th February 2008 at Adamantane House. Professor G M K B Gunaherath, Professor in Chemistry at the Open University of Sri Lanka will deliver the key-note address.

Ten Graduate Chemists of the Silver Jubilee batch, the first to carry out the Research Projects at Adamantane House will make their presentation at this session. Several Graduateship students who completed their Part II C course will also making presentations at the First Research Sessions.