

## Achievement of a Graduate Chemist

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It is with great pleasure that I forward this message as a graduate of the College of Chemical Sciences, former Institute of Chemistry Ceylon at its 25<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the graduate Chemists.

I am indeed proud to be a Graduate Chemist of the College of Chemical Sciences belonging to the 7<sup>th</sup> batch of graduates. Immediately after graduation in 1990, I joined Chemical Industries Colombo Ltd. as a member in their management staff involved in quality control and research & development. Since my ambition was to pursue higher studies and to be a part of the research and the academic team at university level, I joined the University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Pharmacy (USA) as a Visiting Research Specialist in 1991. Thereafter, I was selected to Loyola University Chicago as a Ph.D. student in fall 1992 and completed my Ph. D. in Biophysical Chemistry in January 1997. Recognizing my academic performance at Loyola by maintaining a GPA of 3.95 I was awarded a University Dissertation Fellowship which is considered to be a prestigious award offered to the best Ph.D. candidates.


I genuinely believe that it is the education provided through the College of Chemical Sciences that helped me to perform well at graduate level. I am proud to say that the College of Chemical Sciences has been capable of producing graduates with the essential theoretical and practical knowledge that is required to meet the challenges of the next century. With new developments, I have witnessed that the College of Chemical Sciences has created an excellent learning environment for undergraduates. The close relationship maintained with all National Universities, Universities abroad, and Industrialist signifies that the courses conducted not only provide students with theoretical knowledge but also knowledge in Research and Applied Chemistry.

Returning to Sri Lanka in 1997, I joined the University of Kelaniya as a temporary Lecturer in Biochemistry and thereafter joined Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL). At present, I am attached to the Department of Physical Sciences as a Senior Lecturer in Chemistry and is involved in teaching, curriculum development and development of the learning environment of the undergraduates of the faculty. I served the Department of Physical Sciences and Technology (SUSL) in the capacity of the Head of the Department for 5 years. I also render my services to the Sri Lanka Military Academy (B. Sc. in Military Science) as a visiting Lecturer in Chemistry. At present I am also involved in many knowledge dissemination programs among the underprivileged community (Monaragala District). I have also initiated research in the area of biotechnology in identification of  $\alpha$ -Thalassemia traits in Sri Lanka. My research interests are towards the protein structure and function related to genetic disorders.

I am grateful to the College of Chemical Sciences for providing the opportunity for me and all the other graduates in obtaining our higher education which is recognized all over the world. I strongly believe that the education provided through the Institution is compatible with the chemistry education offered through other National and International Universities. The greatest privilege that the graduates of College of Chemical Sciences receives is, all the lectures are conducted by the most renowned academics and industrialists of the country.

I am quite confident that the graduate chemists produced through the College of Chemical Sciences will perform in an excellent manner in Nation Development activities in the form of chemists, academics, researchers or industrialists and contribute successfully towards the man power requirement of the world. I wish the Graduates who pass out today as 25<sup>th</sup> batch of the Graduate Chemists the very best in their future endeavours

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