

# **NEWSLETTER**



WELCOME TO THE  
NEWSLETTER OF  
  
OLD ROYALISTS  
ENGINEERING  
PROFESSIONALS'  
ASSOCIATION  
STUDENT  
CHAPTER

**OREPA**

**OREPA-SC 2017  
MARCH**

## **THE OUTBOUNDS**

In the spirit of brotherhood, the young Royalists who became the newest addition to the OREPA family, met on 04th of December 2016 at Nonpareil Estate, Belihuloya at the Gajaba Regiment Army Camp for a 3-day outbound event spanned from 04th to 06th of December.

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# THE OUTBOUNDS

## WELCOME MY BROTHER

*In the spirit of brotherhood, the young Royalists who became the newest addition to the OREPA family, met on 04th of December 2016 at Nonpareil Estate, Belihuloya at the Gajaba Regiment Army Camp for a 3-day outbound event spanning from 04th to 06th of December. Organized by their brothers from Level 1 undergraduate batch, this initiative was in the interest of building their team spirit and to integrate them to the one family of OREPA.*



## What really happened

Armed with an array of events to unveil the best of every participant, the program was designed as such to enable each participant to grasp his full potential in the light of the team. Day one started with an Ice Breaker session for the participants to break the ice and get to know each other. It was followed by a volleyball tournament and then an introduction to OREPA and its numerous undertakings. The evening was filled with bonding activities and fun games. At the end of day one, the participants were given a list of targets for the upcoming two

days. At the dawn of the day two, everyone was prepared for the highlight of the program, a 22km hike to Horton Plains. The hike took place through a scenic forest route which was home to a countless number of fauna and flora. The entire journey was a 1km ascension at the end of which the participants were guided to a camping area. At the camping site, they were given tents to stay for the night. The night of the second day was colored with a beautiful campfire. The campfire was backed by the calypso band from Gajaba regiment



making the night a one to remember forever. Third and the last day of the program consisted of a few games and activities to sum up the events. The challenges were





**"BROTHERHOOD IS NOT  
JUST A BIBLE WORD.  
OUT OF  
COMRADESHIP CAN COME  
AND WILL COME  
THE HAPPY FOR ALL"**



### Behind the success

This fabulous event was brought to fruition by a group of youngsters lead by Mayuka Jayawardena and Kanchana Ranasinghe from Group of '15 of OREPA SC with the help of Punsara Rathnaweera also from '15 batch and Brig. J. Thilakaratne from Gajaba Regiment of Sri Lanka Army

From the organizers who worked their sweat off in making sure everything was in place for the 3 days to the photographers who made the memories live forever and to the participants who created the memories, each and every one of their actions were instrumental in the events success.

It was a great sight to see the youngsters eager to join OREPA in an event like this and their enthusiasm. OREPA looks forward to the involvement of the next generation in the events to come in the future as well as the future installments of the outbound event. OREPA looks forward to the involvement of the next generation in the events to come in the future as well as the future installments of the outbound event and ultimately hopes that they will learn of books and men, and learn to play the game.

# CAPACITY BUILDING SESSION

*Undeniably, each and every Royalist is gifted with enormous potential and capacity. A staggering personality has always been the trait of a Royalist. Yet, most of the time, this potential is almost unexploited due to the lack of proper motives, goals and guidance.*

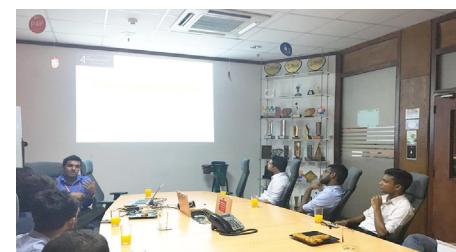
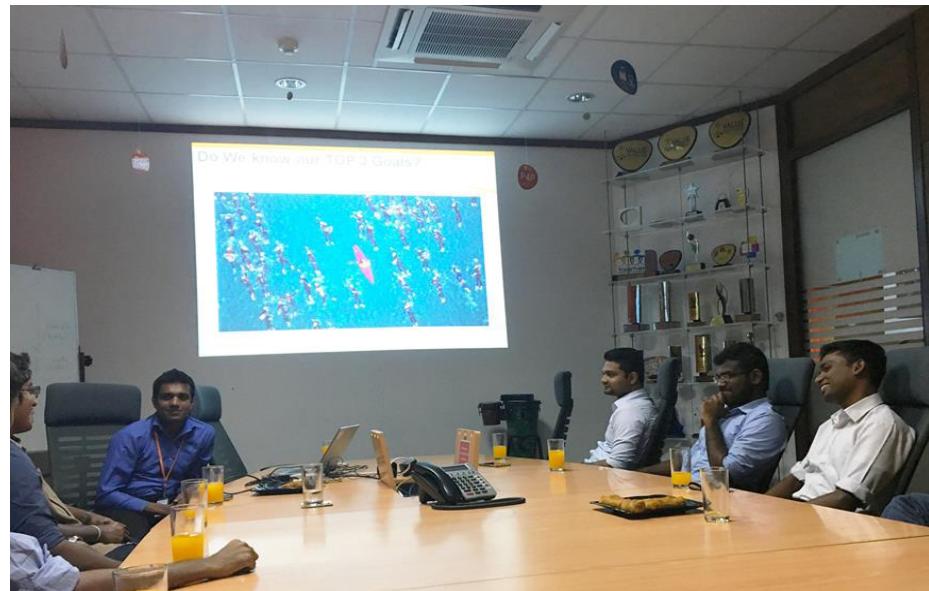
*OREPA has realized that with proper goals and guidance, each Royalist can make a difference in the world. With this purpose in mind, the OREPA main body organized a capacity building session for novel undergraduates from the first and second years, who have actively worked with the student chapter.*

## The Program

The session was conducted by Mr. Vihangun Ariyaratne on the 14th of December 2016, at the GlaxoSmithKline Auditorium. Over the span of 3 hours, Mr. Vihangun



**"NO VALID PLANS FOR THE FUTURE CAN BE MADE BY THOSE WHO HAVE NO CAPACITY FOR LIVING NOW"**



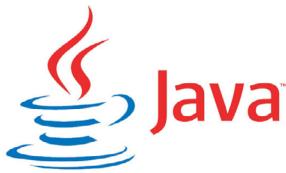
*Mr Vihangun Ariyaratne empowering undergraduates*

enlightened the audience on the art of setting the right goals and achieving them. The session had been life changing for all the participants, as they had a clear insight into organizing their own personal goals when they walked out, rather than when they walked in.

Achieving social and personal development by recognizing the obstacles that occlude the goals in life is one of the vital aspects in capacity building. It is rather challenging to realize these aspects on one's own, without proper guidance. OREPA is willing to provide this guidance in the future as well, aiding Royalists to attain their full potential and capacity.



# JAVA PROGRAMMING COURSE



*Inspired by movies, TV shows and novels, it is every youngster's dream to learn coding. Undoubtedly, having the ability to code is a handy skill for an engineer in the making. In order to introduce the young minds of Royal College to the realm of coding, OREPA recently conducted a Java programming course aimed at the middle school from the grades 6 to 8. Under the guidance of Mr. Dinuka Salwathura, a Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) undergraduate at the University of Moratuwa, the young Royalists witnessed the power and the potential of coding for the first time.*



Over a period of four days, spanning from 19th to 23rd December 2016, the participants engaged in tackling and understanding the basic concepts of object oriented programming and Java programming. Each of these concepts were carefully explained with the use of a simplified model of an automated car as an example, making it easier for the youngsters to grasp them. The functions of the said car model were implemented in the Java programming language, providing a hands-on experience in coding for the participants. Further, the fundamental programming concepts

such as arrays, loops, conditional blocks, etc. were also covered in depth.

Having witnessed the excitement and the enthusiasm of the participants throughout the course, its OREPA's intention to continue this program in the upcoming years as well. OREPA is currently in the process of planning to improve the content as well as to expand the scope of the course, with the support of more CSE undergraduates. Before long, the Java programming course will be an event that the young Royalists would never want to miss.



Mr. Dinuka Presenting awards for the winners



Young Royalists solving problems



Mr. Dinuka Salwathura with fellow young Royalists

# GREEN TO GREENER

Green to Greener is a step-up of the project "Green Initiatives" that took place in 2014 & 2015. The Green project successfully did an audit on the daily accumulation of the waste in our school and the results were surprisingly higher than expected.

Therefore, the Green to Greener project was initiated to find solutions to reduce the waste accumulation and to manage the waste in the most optimum way, within Royal College.



## What's been done so far

The first target of these initiatives was to make the Primary Section a Polythene Free Zone. As part of it a program was started to encourage the students and the parents of the Primary Section to use substitutes for polythene such as paper, cloth etc. Primary Section was selected as the preliminary project initiation point as it is physically separated from the rest of the school premises, and since it will be easier to implement the concept in the primary section first.



## Path

Refuse

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle



An awareness program was carried out at the Primary School Parents' Meeting on 30th November, 2016 to educate parents and get their support to achieve our target of Polythene Free Primary Section. OREPA in collaboration with the Prefects' Council of Royal College, visited the classes in Primary Section and the students and parents were educated by them on the importance of reducing the polythene usage and the impact it has on the overall cleanliness of the school. They were told the impact the substitution of Polythene with substitutes such as paper, cloth and etc. will have on the environment in general. The awareness program was a success as the parents and students took an active interest in the concerns about the polythene and on making Primary Section a Polythene Free Zone.

Based on the success of the first initiative, Green to Greener plans to take another step forward with a project to manage the garbage collecting and disposing methods in school. Upon an earlier audit carried out by the project team, it was discovered that the waste management and collection methodologies currently employed within the school are inefficient and ill-managed.

## The next step

Next step in Green to Greener initiative's path is to formulate a successful methodology in managing and optimizing the garbage collection and disposal process within Royal College. They are currently working with the data collected through the audits to come up with the best possible strategies.



"IMAGINE IF TREES GAVE OFF WIFI SIGNALS, WE WOULD BE PLANTING SO MANY TREES AND WE'D PROBABLY SAVE THE PLANET TOO. TOO BAD THEY ONLY PRODUCE THE OXYGEN WE BREATHE."



# OREPA SC MODEL AND PROJECTIONS



Mr Pamodh Alwis addressing fellow royalists at the annual OREPA-SC get together

Being the operational body of OREPA, Student Chapter plays a pivotal role in all these through their involvement in the school projects providing direct leadership and resources and managing the projects, and as well as through handling the basic member centered events including the general meetings, gatherings and etc. Student Chapter of OREPA comprises of Royalists who pursue engineering and engineering-related recognized degree programs in an undergraduate capacity, at either a state university or a private university.

These are the youngest members in OREPA and are the closest generations in relation to the current students in Royal College, thus they play the vital role of OREPA as the link to the current student population. As a versatile entity, OREPA Student Chapter has its reach in many of the recognized state and private universities with a considerably sized member base and currently, boasts of active engagement of engineering-related undergraduates from University of Moratuwa, University of Peradeniya, University

of Ruhuna, Kothalawala Defense University and Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology.

OREPA Student Chapter provides the undergraduates in engineering-related disciplines a perfect opportunity to apply what they have learnt in service of their alma mater, Royal College. This is beneficial to both Royal College and the individual undergraduate as this clearly provides the undergraduates a platform to test and showcase their skills in leadership, technical proficiencies and etc., at the same time helping the school, that we learnt so much from.

Also, the Student Chapter provides the perfect platform for the engineering undergraduates in terms of networking, not only with the fellow Student Chapter members, but also with the member of the OREPA main body and other third parties that are involved with the projects, which will help them develop their knowledge of the industry and people in engineering, thus giving them an edge when they graduate from their respective degree programs.

*The Old Royalists Engineering Professionals' Association (OREPA) was formed with the intentions of assisting RCU and Royal College authorities in developing the educational and technical aspects of our alma mater.*

*OREPA has been playing a unique role in this endeavours with a set of unique projects with their foundations in engineering related paradigms, which has added an increased value to the association in general.*

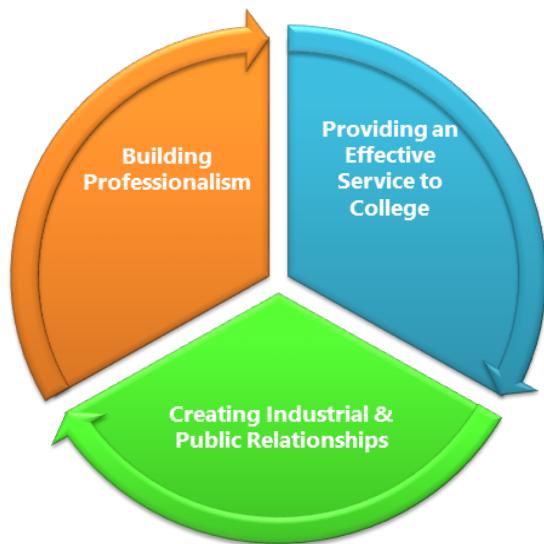
With these in mind the OREPA Student Chapter provides a circular model of operation where the process of providing a service ensures the development of professionalism in self and others in the long run. The current model is a three-fold model with each fold circularly connected to others.



## The Model of Operation

OREPA Student Chapter is a subsidiary of OREPA, which is built on the principle of providing the Royalists who are actively following a recognized degree program in an engineering related field of specialization, an opportunity to serve Royal College and at the same time develop the skills and get the satisfaction of doing something right. This platform structure can be observed in most of the projects in OREPA Student Chapter, where the members are given a chance to assist in helping to find a solution to an existing problem at the school or make improvements on the current conditions wherever possible.

The undergraduate, as a return on investment, would be provided with numerous different benefits. The most important of these is the basic exposure given to the undergraduate member. When an undergraduate member is involved in a project, there are many other parties he will have to communicate and interact with. These parties involve the academic and non-academic staff of Royal College, the administration and the members of Royal College Union, members of the OREPA main body as well as outside parties who are interested in particular projects. This provides a platform for the undergraduate members to develop their interpersonal skills and provides them an opportunity to network with people from various different disciplines.



As most of the involved parties such as in the case of members of the OREPA main body and the third parties involved, the involved are mainly in the fields of engineering. This provides the undergraduate member a better chance to network with industry professionals and learn things from them as well as to get to know them for future references if required. This in turn could be a great edge to an undergraduate member as he will get into the field knowing who is there and what is to expect so he will be able to perform better.

Being a professional body, developing and maintaining professionalism, is an influential aspect of the daily process of OREPA Student Chapter. The projects carried out at OREPA Student Chapter provides most undergraduate members with their first career building experience as they are trained to work hand in hand with external parties and as a single unit to achieve a single objective. The members have to learn to work with a schedule, manage their teams and communicate their ideas over different media. What they receive is a hands-on experience on how to professionally handle a given task and achieve a given goal effectively.

This in turn provides them with the necessary professional skills set to be a leader where ever they apply themselves, and also provides them the ability to enhance their value to the society in general. The idea of this is that every individual possesses unique qualities and skills from which we can extract knowledge and experience and it is our duty to utilize these opportunities to yield better results for ourselves and for the people around us.

As the development reaches the necessary stage, it is apparent that the potential of the individual will be increased. This makes him a highly sought-after candidate for the various different activities. This potentiates the individual to a state where he is able to offer better services to Royal College. The cycle is continued again with the individual improving more and more and at the same time helping improve the quality of conditions at Royal College.

So, this mutually beneficial model provides the members as well as Royal College to improve in the long term and to also provide a steady background for the development of OREPA Student Chapter.

## Future of OREPA Student Chapter

We have witnessed a rapid development in OREPA during the three years since its inception and it is yet to achieve its true potential. School Projects and Membership Development have to have a growth in both quality and quantity.

We predict an active participation of 300 student chapter members at the end of 5 years and lay out the challenge of improving the career potential and reach of its membership. We have already executed several iconic projects including Water Polo Visual System and it is our hope that the future generations of Student Chapter will carry forward the good work.

Success is a staircase. Remember to take every step of the way with care, so you will reach the pinnacle safely. We and all the other before us, have worked hard to take OREPA Student Chapter to the state where it is now. At the end, what we all want to see is a bigger and a better OREPA Student Chapter. It is our duty to work towards achieving that goal.

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OREPA-SC 16/17

# NEWSLETTER

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"OREPA, as a host of technical experts in many facets of engineering and related fields, opens up a reservoir of knowledge, technical expertise and material support in the fields of engineering, architecture and related fields for the benefit of the students and the youth. OREPA is looking forward to become a key stakeholder of the Royal College and the community, continuously working towards the betterment of our society. This Professional Newsletter provides news on our projects, events, innovations and achievements to promote sustainability, new innovations and youth empowerment within and beyond Royal College."

Please send your thoughts and insights to empower our initiatives;  
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