



## *Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America*

### **Congratulations to our 2020-2021 Scholarship Recipient!**

Every year, MGCAANA receives applications from several of our alumnae who have demonstrated excellence in their academic achievements, leadership ability, and participation in extracurricular activities. We would like to thank all our applicants who took the time and effort to send in their application. Our goal is to motivate our student members to shine academically as well as personally, so we truly hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity in the years to come, if you did not receive a scholarship this year. As always, if there is anything that we can do to help you, please let us know.

We are extremely proud to announce our 2020-2021 MGCAANA Scholar – Lasangi Dhanapala. As this year's MGCAANA scholar, she will each receive a \$300.00 scholarship.

Lasangi is currently a Ph.D. student at the Department of Chemistry, University of Connecticut (UConn). Lasangi completed her primary and secondary education at Mahamaya Girls' college until she graduated in 2010, completing her G.C.E A/L examination. After completing her studies, she joined the Institute of Fundamental Studies (IFS), Hantana as a student Research Assistant and her research work there was awarded with a National Research Council (NRC) merit award for scientific publication in 2015. She then joined the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya and graduated in 2017 with a First-Class Honors degree specialized in Chemistry. Soon after her graduation, she joined the University of Peradeniya as a Teaching Assistant, where she worked until she joined UConn. Lasangi worked as a Teaching Assistant at UConn in 2017 and 2018, and she was awarded the "Excellence in Teaching" Award for two consecutive years. Currently, she is working as a Research Assistant focusing her studies on the development of microfluidic devices for detection of protein cancer biomarkers, focusing particularly on prostate cancer. The research effort is mainly directed towards developing an early detection system to red-flag cancer before it starts to spread into the aggressive forms.

On behalf of MGCAANA, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Scholarship Selection Committee would like to sincerely congratulate Lasangi and wish her continued success in her academic and professional pursuits.