



New Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Harshani Arachchilage
Department of Chemistry

The College of Science and Engineering Technology proudly welcomes Dr. Harshani Arachchilage as a new faculty member within the Department of Chemistry. For the department, Dr. Arachchilage will be teaching Inorganic & Environmental Chemistry, as well as General Chemistry I. Although she is not currently conducting research for the university, it should be noted that her research interests include characterizing metal complexes and synthesizing thermally stable and volatile metal complexes to deposit metal films using Atomic Layer Deposition methods.

With a focus on Chemistry, Dr. Arachchilage, obtained her Bachelor of Science from the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

She noted that she “loved chemistry and wanted to pursue a professional career path within the subject”. Leaving her native land of Sri Lanka, Dr. Arachchilage began a new journey in the US where she obtained a Master of Science in Chemistry from Sam Houston State while also teaching as a Graduate Assistant.

She then moved on to pursue her Ph.D. in Chemistry from Wayne State University. After graduation with her doctoral degree in 2020, she returned to the Department of Chemistry at SHSU as a member of the faculty.

As an SHSU alumna, Dr. Arachchilage is exhilarated to be a part of the teaching faculty here at Sam Houston. She stated that she looks forward to “giving back what she gained from this beautiful place”. In the spirit of giving back, she wants to encourage current students with the knowledge that “life has its ups-and-downs but if you focus on your goals and work hard, you can definitely achieve those goals.”

Fun Facts



In your professional life do you consider yourself to be more organized and structured or creative and go-with-the-flow?

I think I am more organized and structured

What is something you do to relax when you feel stressed?

Listen to music. I like to listen all kind of music, but I prefer soft/relaxing music.

Who in your life has inspired you and why?

My undergraduate advisor was a huge inspiration to me. Her passion as a professor motivated me and put the excitement in me to come this far in my career path. I also would like to respectfully mention my master's advisor at SHSU and PhD advisor at WSU.

If you were given a large sum of money on the condition that it had to be donated, who/what would be the recipient? Why?

Kids who are suffering from diseases in their younger age and are in need of money for their treatments; I want to see all the kids are happy and healthy.