



AAUP AGM 2019 e~Newsletter

News update of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya

E mail: aaupslk@gmail.com Web site: www.pdn.ac.lk/alumni

March 2018/2019

Message from the President AAUP Eng. Sarath Seneviratne



On the occasion of reaching the end of the two year tenure as President of this prestigious Association, I wish to state that we have continued the programs initiated by the previous committees. Our Secretary's report and the Newsletter give an insight to the programs undertaken this year by the AAUP. I am grateful to the committee members who shared the responsibilities.

During these two years, I have had the good fortune to participate in active discussions with our dedicated members of the following Chapters:

Colombo, Wayamba, Ottawa, Toronto, and Canberra. I thank the committees of these Chapters for arranging these meetings. We have had the continued support of the Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria Chapters too during this period for the on-going and new programs. At the foreign Chapter gatherings that I attended, they were strongly committed to continue their support to the AAUP. However, it was pointed out that the AAUP should have a more prominent role not only within the university, but also in the country as a whole. It was also noted that the participation of our alumni in those forums was much more admirable than that of the mother body. We should take a more vigorous effort to enroll new members and to get them to play an active role in the affairs of the AAUP. I humbly appeal to the present members to help us in this endeavour and request all alumni who are not members to join this family.

29th AGM of the AAUP held on 25th March 2018

The 29th AGM of the AAUP was held on 25th March 2018 at the Chemistry Lecture Theatre. The inaugural ceremony commenced with the lighting of the traditional Oil Lamp by the Chief Guest, Professor Ranjini Obeyesekere, the Guest of Honour Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, the Vice Chancellor; Professor Upul Dissanayake and other dignitaries. President of the AAUP, Eng. Sarath Seneviratne welcomed the gathering.



Dignitaries at the Head Table



Section of the Audience at the 29th AGM

Address by the Chief Guest Emeritus Professor Ranjini Obeyesekere

Professor Ranjini Obeyesekere in her talk reminisced her time at the University of Peradeniya, as the first batch of Arts students to come into residence in the campus. Prof. Obeyesekere in her speech made a plea to the younger generation of teachers and students to have a passion for one's work; compassion and sensitivity to the needs of those around and a core of moral integrity, while in this multi ethnic campus.



Address by the Guest of Honour Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam

Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in his address, described the evolution of the University of Peradeniya from its inception. He stressed that the University of Peradeniya should truly be a National University with undergraduates from all parts of the island.



Felicitation of Late Dr. Dharmasena Pathiraja at the 29th AGM



Late Dr. Dharmasena Pathiraja



Reading of the Felicitation Citation in Sinhala by Priyantha Fonseka (L) and in English by Dr. Shayama Benneheke (R) - prepared by Prof. Liyanage Amarakeerthi



The Vice Chancellor presenting the Memento to Mrs. Malini Pathiraja (L)



Dr. Milinda Pathiraja speaking on behalf of the family (R)

Scholarships Awarded at the AGM 2018

Executive Committee 2018/2019

President : Eng. Sarath Seneviratne
 Immediate Past President : Prof. Rupika Rajakaruna
 Secretary : Dr. Anoja Wanigasekera
 Treasurer : Mr. Ravi Mulleriyawa
 Vice President : Dr. Anura Danthanarayana
 Vice President : Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardena
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 Vice President : Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake
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 Asst.Secretary : Mrs. Dharshini Hulugalle
 Asst. Treasurer : Dr. Athula Ekanayake
 Editor : Prof. Jayanthi Edirisinghe
 President Colombo Chapter : Mr. K.M.D.Gunaratne
Committee Members:
 Prof. S.P. Nissanka
 Prof. Chandani Perera
 Prof. Chantha Jayawardena

Prof. Savitri Kumar
 Mr. Arjuna Karalliyadda
 Dr. Amalka Pinidiyaarachchi
 Prof. Swarna Wimalasiri
 Dr. Hemali Nandalal
 Dr. DMSB Botota
 Ms. Hema Gamage
 Dr. Damayanthi Menike
 Mr. Nalin Jayatissa
 Prof. Ananda Kulasooriya
 Mr. RMPB Rathnayake
 Mr. Ashwin Wickramasooriya
 Prof. Terrence Madujith
 Mrs. Chandra Weerawardena
 Mr. Priyantha Fonseka
 Mr. SMNS Samarakoon
 Mr. KMD Gunaratne –Cbo Chapter
 Mr. Wijeratne Dehigamiwa- Wayamba

Scholarships awarded by the New South Wales Chapter at the AGM 2018

Scholarship award to	Recipients
Student who obtained the Highest mark in Sinhala at the 1 st year examination in Arts	Ms. D.M. Thennakoon
2 nd Year student who topped the batch at the 1 st year examination in Science	A.Y.P. Perera
Student who obtained the highest mark for Mathematics at the 1 st year examination in Science	D.P.N.D. Amarasinghe
Most deserving 2 nd year student specializing in Chemistry	E.M.T.N.K. Ekanayake
2 nd year student who obtained the highest GPA in the BBA program in Management	Ms. A.M.F. Asma
1 st year student who obtained the highest GPA in the BBA program in Management.	Ms. M.R.M.U. Manikrama

Name of the Scholarship/Award	Recipients
Prof. Ashley Halpe Memorial Scholarship for Best performance in English at 1 st year examination	Ms. E.M.C.K. Ambanpola
Mr. Y.W. Gunawardena Memorial Scholarship for Best performance in Geography at 1 st year examination	Ms. R.N.R. Ranasinghe
Prof. K.N. Jayatilleke Memorial Scholarship for Best performance in Buddhism and Indian Philosophy	Ms. S. Nadhiya A.M.S.Anuruddhika
Prof. I. Balasuriya Memorial Scholarship for Best performance in Botany at 300 level examination	K.W.J. Rasara
Prof. B.L.T. De Silva Memorial Scholarship Best performance in Biology at 1 st Year examination	A.M.A.K. Abeysinghe
Prof. H.W. Dias Scholarship for Best performance in Inorganic Chemistry paper at 3 rd year examination	H.R.G.W. K.B. Ekanayake
Sydney NSW AAUP Scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination - Faculty of Agriculture	P.B.G.Pathirana
Sydney NSW AAUP Scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination - Faculty of Arts	Ms. E.M.C.K. Ambanpola
Sydney NSW AAUP Scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination - Faculty of Dental Sciences	Ms. W.V.H. Sewwandika
Sydney NSW AAUP Scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination - Faculty of Medicine	Ms. M.M. Sahlah
Sydney NSW AAUP Scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination - Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	Ms. B.M.D.N. Kularatne
Sydney NSW AAUP Scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination - Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	W.M.D.T.A. Walpola
Sydney NSW AAUP Scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination - Faculty of Science	A.Y.P. Perera
Sydney NSW AAUP Scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination - Faculty of Management	M.R.M.U. Manikrama
Sydney NSW AAUP Scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination - Faculty of Engineering	Ranjith Shantha



Scholarships being awarded to respective recipients

29th AGM - Fellowship & Lunch at the Lodge

(The photos speak for themselves)



Activities of 2018/2019 - In brief



A Community Activity - Donations to school children affected by the ethnic violence in Digana in March 2018



Musical show by Dr. Manella Joseph in Aid of the SNRU- Held at the Punchi Theatre in Borella on 27th June 2018



“Makaranda” featuring Nissanka Diddeniya & Four other well known vocalists - AAUP is happy to be part of this Inaugural concert



Members of the Colombo Chapter handing over the Cheque - collection from the musical show- at an AAUP Committee meeting

AAUP Day Trip & Picnic to Rathna Ella, Pokkapitiya & Hunnasgiriya Range on 01st July 2018



Make Shift - Stall with AAUP Souvenirs: AAUP's Role at the General Convocation Held on 5th July 2018



A Joint Effort by the Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya & AAUP Colombo Chapter: Career Guidance Workshop for Final Year Science Graduates



Over forty Science Undergraduates participated in the workshop on ‘Creative Thinking & Personality Development’ held on Sunday 21st October, 2018, at the Faculty of Science. Two resource persons conducted activities directed to Relaxation, Motivation, Leadership, Grooming, Etiquette and Creative Thinking, areas of much relevance to final year undergraduates.

A Magnanimous Gesture by the AAUP Chapter in Western Australia - Perth



At the Health Center - (L) President AAUP addressing the staff (R) Items being handed over

Items Donated to the Health Center

- A 38’’ TV Monitor & a 1TB External Hard Drive – To play Education Health videos for the benefit of patients in the waiting room of the Health Centre
- An Ophthalmoscope for eye examination
- An Otoscope for ear examination

AAUP Three Day Trip To Jaffna: 20th – 22nd November 2018



Participants on arrival in Jaffna



Enjoying the long journey on the Jaffna Express train (Kurunegala to Jaffna) & shorter bus rides (to and from railway stations)



*AAUP Jaffna Chapter in the Making –
At the University of Jaffna*



A cool dip in the Indian Ocean



An Enjoyable, Educational and Memorable Three days in Jaffna!

The AAUP annual trip to Jaffna would best be described by our stalwarts, Sarath and Hema who, together with their committee, spared no pains to give us a most enjoyable, educational and memorable three days in Jaffna 20th – 22nd Nov. 2018.

When I embarked on this trip, I was very apprehensive about my ability to cope with the programme. However, with the grace of God and the brilliant, meticulous organising, it was most certainly a high point in the senile years of this octogenarian!

Continued.....

On the cool morning of 20th November I went in my tuk tuk at 5.15 am. to the Faculty of Science, and was met by a few cordial members. More compatriots came later and we then took off in a luxurious bus given us by the Engineering Faculty, to Kurunegala to meet the Jaffna Express. Here, more AAUP adventurers joined us and we were all packed into one compartment, 43 of us. No discomfort was felt since the warmth and cordiality of meeting each other after so many years, was uppermost. Yes, there was the joker Pastor Pieris who “discovered Geography” in my freshman years of 1956.

The train journey helped us reabsorb the beauty of our countryside with its rare birds and lush trees. Further, since it was a five hour journey, we were able to recall and renew past friendships and even establish new friendships.

Our first site to visit was the Nagadeepa Viharaya, with an exceptional experience from ferry to Viharaya and back. I learnt that Lord Buddha visited this site, five years after attaining Enlightenment, to settle a dispute between two warring Naga kings – Chulodara and Mahodara.

In the evening, we visited the Jaffna University where we were warmly welcomed. This was a strategic meeting with the University staff who I think were mainly alumni of the Engineering Faculty of the University of Peradeniya. The main purpose of this meeting was to start the Jaffna Chapter of the AAUP – what a gracious and generous hosting there was with snacks and dinner.

By now, we were a little weary and were so glad to be in the clean, luxurious rooms of Dambakola Patuna. It was the historic place where Sangamiththa Theri landed in Sri Lanka with the sacred Bo sapling. This building with its scenic location was our resting place for our stay in Jaffna. I made new friends with members who shared my room. They were quite magnanimous in allowing me a double bed all to myself. The linen was clean and the bathroom ample. I was informed that the Navy looked after this place.

On our second day, the breakfast was so delicious with string hoppers, pol sambol and Soya meat curry – flavours I have never tasted before. A varied programme had been planned for us – sea bath (which had to be postponed due to rough seas), Dambakola Patuna Sanghamiththa Temple, Keerimalai hot springs, Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil and Rio Ice Cream with its varieties of flavours and sizes, not to be missed! Further on the day, was Point Pedro and the Light house. Here, I noted with admiration the Sri Lankan Flag which read, “Unity in Diversity”. How many of us truly admire the wealth of our country and live by this premise?

The last visit for this day was the visit to Naga Viharaya. The historic legend tells us that when King Devanampiyatissa went to Jaffna to receive the Bo sapling from Sanghamiththa Theri, the Naga tribesman of Jaffna had requested the King to allow the Bo sapling to be kept in Jaffna for another week before taking it to Anuradhapura, which the King did. Thus a branch of this sapling had been planted where the Naga Viharaya now stands.

Our last day took us to the Bottomless Well – Nilaveri. Again, legend has it that Rama shot an arrow to the earth to quench his thirst on his way to the Central Province and that this is the well he created.

Continued.....

Next on our itinerary was the visit to the Jaffna Public Library, one of Asia's biggest Libraries, built in 1933 and burnt in 1981. It was rebuilt in 2001 and set in scenic gardens with modern and sophisticated facilities. It inspires hope that we can rebuild our country and our communities from staggering loss that its senseless destruction caused and once again return this bastion of knowledge to something resembling its former glory.

The Kadurugoda Temple has an important place in our Sri Lankan history. Archaeological excavations by Paul Pieris in 1917-1919 have shown us the remains of a shrine room, Buddha images, coins, stupas, pieces of stone with the imprints of the Buddha's foot etc. Here too, the environs were clean and well maintained.

As a child I remember visiting a Trappist Monastery in Tholagatty (Tholagachchi) reputed for their austere rule of silence. Only one monk was allowed to speak and show people around. I remember the efforts of these Catholic monks in agriculture and also in the making of wines, fruits juices, jams, cough syrups etc. We went looking for this place but sadly were not able to locate it. Instead, we were taken to the Rosetto Stall, now managed by the Catholic Rosarian Sisters where, at incredibly low prices we were able to purchase non-alcoholic and alcoholic products. Though these purchases were "light" on the purse, they were terribly "heavy" on the physique.

Jaffna market was the last point of interest. It was vast, varied, cheap and clean. The vendors were courteous and the problem of carrying our loaded bags was the only deterrent. Palmyrah products, Peanut biscuits, Sago cookies, herbal items and varieties of dried fish to mention a few, were available. A blissfully happy sing song wound up the train journey back home, until we had to get off at Kurunegala, when, most unfortunately, the rains came pelting down on us soaking us through and through.

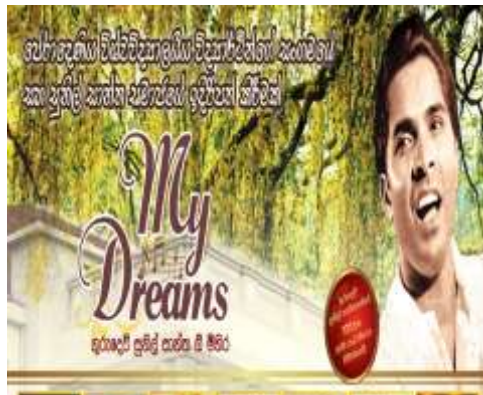
This AAUP trip to Jaffna was an unforgettable learning experience for me – not only did I learn about the important historical sites but I also learned and saw the discipline, the honesty, the caring, the artistry and cleanliness to mention a few admirable qualities of the people I met in Jaffna. I have redoubled my admiration for them.

Last but not least, I must emphasize that the warmth and caring of all those who travelled with me was unique and memorable. Many gallantly carried my bags or helped me on and off buses, trains or ferries. Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart. Here I wish to mention Mrs. Maya Rupasinghe who faithfully volunteered to stand by the toilet door of the train during a very bumpy ride while I was inside the toilet managing an acrobatic feat, being tossed and knocked about by the jolting train. I had blue marks on my arms as mementos, up to weeks later. Thank you Maya.

Once again I reiterate my thanks to Hema, Sarath and the organising committee of the AAUP for giving us an unforgettable and thoroughly enjoyable trip to Jaffna

Bridget Halpé

My Dreams - A Rare Opportunity Afforded to the AAUP Melodies of Yesteryear - The Best of Sunil Santha



My Dreams –An evening of music - Melodies of yesteryear by Sunil Santha, would linger in the hearts and minds of all those who were present at the EOE Pereira Theatre, for years to come. The packed audience was spellbound by the singing of the veteran singers, the orchestra directed by Suresh Maliyadde and the chorus comprising nine present day undergraduates. The audience sat through the show mesmerised.

Funds raised from the sale of tickets for the show would go towards the activities of the AAUP that would in turn benefit the University community and the students. The entire cost of the show was borne by one of the sons, Lanka Santha, who is a graduate from the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya.



Thursday Forum Talk Series of the AAUP

Thursday Forum held on 13th June 2018



Thursday Forum held on 23rd October 2018



AAUP THURSDAY FORUM SEMINAR SERIES-2018

Talk by **Prof. Upali Illangasekara**

(Emeritus Professor in Medicine, University of Peradeniya)

'Why some patients with Diabetes are unable to attend their children's weddings

'A talk on latest findings of Diabetes – Prevention and Treatment'

At the PGIA Auditorium @ 7.00 pm
On 23rd October 2018



An event jointly organised by the
Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya (AAUP)

AAUP THURSDAY FORUM SEMINAR SERIES-2019

Faculty Sports Club and Recreation Centre of the
University of Peradeniya

SPEAKER:

**Professor S.N. Arseculeratne, MBBS (Cey.),
D.Phil (Oxford).**

(Professor Emeritus of Microbiology of
University of Peradeniya)

TITLE:

Published records on, and my personal experiences with

PARANORMAL PHENOMENA

Thursday January 17th, 2019 at 6:30 PM

**At the Faculty Club
(off Old Galaha Road)**



Prof. Arseculeratne in conversation before the talk (Top), Section of the audience at the talk (Bottom)

Donation of 2-Motorized wheel Chairs to the SNRU by the Victoria Chapter



The Victoria Chapter fulfilled a long felt need of students with mobility impairment, in the Faculty of Arts, by donating 2-motorized wheel chairs. Mr. Sarath Jayasooriya, Ajith Rukman De Silva & Mangala De Silva represented the Victoria Chapter at the handing over ceremony, held on 14th January 2019, at the SNRU. Present on the occasion were Dean/Arts, SAR/Arts, Academic coordinator of SNRU- Dr. Leena Senehiweera, President and office bearers of the AAUP.

Endowed Scholarships

Prof. Ashley Halpe Memorial Scholarship:

Best performance in English at 1st year examination

Mr. Y.W. Gunawardena Memorial Scholarship:

Best performance in Geography at 1st year examination

Prof. K.N. Jayatilleke Memorial Scholarship:

Best performance in Buddhism and Indian Philosophy (PHY 205 and PHY 304)

Prof. I. Balasuriya Memorial Scholarship:

Best performance in Botany at 300 level examination at the B,Sc. Special degree in Botany

Prof. B.L.T. De Silva Memorial Scholarship:

Best performance in Biology at 1st year examination

Prof. H.W. Dias Scholarship:

Best performance in Inorganic Chemistry paper at 3rd year examination (Chemistry Special)

Sydney NSW AAUP Scholarships:

Best performance at 1st year examination Faculty of Agriculture

Best performance at 1st year examination Faculty of Arts

Best performance at 1st year examination Faculty of Dental Sciences

Best performance at 1st year examination Faculty of Medicine

Best performance at 1st year examination Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science

Best performance at 1st year examination Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Best performance at first year examination Faculty of Science

Best performance at first year examination Faculty of Management

Best performance at first year examination Faculty of Engineering

One Day Trip to Moon Plains – An Enjoyable & Educational Experience (20th March 2019)



The Group (Top) – Bottom (L) Director DOA-Sita Eliya explaining to the group (R) Trying to capture the panoramic view on smart phones !

The destination of yet another AAUP trip this year was to Moon Plains. With the announcement of the trip, there was an overwhelming response from the membership. However, due to logistical issues the number of participants had to be limited. With 43 participants, we set out from the Science Faculty at 6.30 am on 20 March 2019. We shared our homemade breakfasts while travelling on the bus and stopped at the famous 'Appachchi's Roti Kade' at Thawalanthenna for a hot cup of tea and hot- hot 'roti' with 'sambal'. The next stop was at the newly built Damro Tea Rest, formerly known as Labukelle – MacWoods, for cakes and tea.

Thereafter, it was a straight drive to our destination- Moon Plains in Sita Eliya. The road to Moon Plains is through the Seed potato farm of the Dept. of Agriculture. Here we got into

safari jeeps to travel along a rugged terrain of 2.5 km to reach the Moon Plains. Though the uphill road was very bumpy and dusty, the scenery was breath- taking. On reaching the summit at over 8,600 feet above sea level, we got off to have a 360⁰ panoramic view of the far away hills, diverse vegetation cover and the geographic boundaries between Nuwara Eliya and Welimada. On climbing the scenic tower at the location, we got even a better view of the distant surroundings. Here, we were met by Mr. Jayasinghe, the Director, of the Sita Eliya Seed Potato Farm, an Alumnus of the University of Peradeniya, who warmly welcomed us, explained in detail the history of the seed farm and the geography of the surrounding hills and plains.

On our way down from the scenic Moon Plains, we stopped at the green houses where tiny seed potato plants obtained from tissue culture were propagated under 'armophic' conditions to prevent infection and to obtain tiny healthy seed bulbs for field planting. This was truly an on-site education experience.

Thereafter, we headed to the Agriculture Department circuit bungalow, where participants were served with a welcome drink and thereafter lunch. Our next destination was the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club for tea and snacks. Before tea, participants spent a short time strolling around the Nuwara Eliya city centre. We headed back around 6:00 pm, singing all the way until we reached the University by 8:30 pm. It was yet another memorable trip enjoyed by all.

Anura Dantanarayana

(Dr. Anura Dantanarayana/ AAUP Committee)

Let Us Know your Achievements!

Dear Members,

Let us know of your Significant Achievements in your field of expertise and/or National Awards received by you, during 2018/2019, to be included in the next AAUP Newsletter.

Please write to us: The AAUP Office, WUS Building, Please email us: aaupslk@gmail.com
University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya

Become a Member of the AAUP

AAUP Membership Application Forms can be downloaded from www.pdn.ac.lk/alumni OR

Call at the AAUP office during working hours and collect AAUP Membership Application Forms.

*Make your Batch mate, Roommate & Colleague a Member of the
AAUP - Bring back Nostalgic Memories of Yesteryear!*



The Garden University at its Best