



AAUP e-Newsletter

March - August 2018

Email: aaupslk@gmail.com

Web site: www.pdn.ac.lk/alumni

News update of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

29th AGM of the AAUP

Scholarships

Felicitations

AAUP Events

AAUP Day Trip and Picnic

Thursday Forums

Obituary



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

Message from the President AAUP Eng. Sarath Seneviratne, Elected for a Second Term

I am grateful to the members for electing me as the President for the second time and I whole-heartedly intend to take the Association forward to the best of my ability. This year more new members have been appointed to the Executive Committee with the hope of getting new ideas that would lead the Association in new directions.

The past few months had been an active period for the Association. 'Thursday Forum' talk series was revived. Members and their friends enjoyed the one day trip to the scenic Hunnasgiriya range. I as the President attended the AGM of the Wayamba Chapter. Funds were raised for the Special Needs Resources Unit (SNRU) of the University through the musical show conducted by Dr. Manella Joseph and coordinated by Mrs. Sujatha Karunaratne of the Colombo Chapter. I express my gratitude to both of them for their untiring efforts.

Currently, the membership database is being updated, please bring to our attention any mistakes or omissions. The assistance of all, local and foreign Chapters are most welcome to execute many projects that have been planned to help the university community.

Newly Elected 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

Vice President : Prof. Siril Wijesundara

Vice President : Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake

Vice President : Dr. Shayama Banneheka

Asst. Secretary : Dr. Ruwantha Kulathunga

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

Dr. Thushari Herath

Dr. Jayalath Edirisinghe

Mr. Priyantha Fonseka

Dr. Tilak Bandara

The 29th AGM of the AAUP

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP) was held on 25th March 2018 at the Chemistry Lecture Theater. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Professor Ranjini Obeyesekere and Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam was the Guest of Honour.

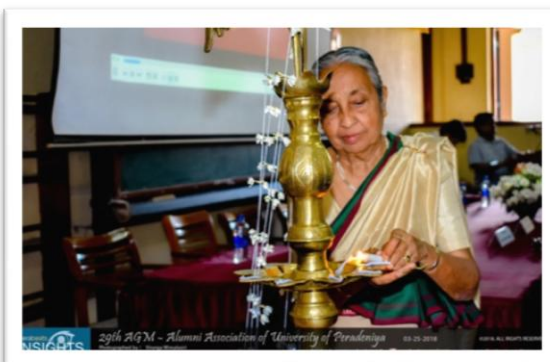
The ceremony commenced with the lighting of the traditional Oil Lamp followed by the National Anthem. The President of the AAUP, Eng. Sarath Seneviratne welcomed the gathering and thereafter the Vice Chancellor; Professor Upul Dissanayake addressed the gathering. The Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour were introduced by Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardena and Prof. Siril Wijesundara respectively. The Presidents of the AAUP Chapters of Colombo, and Dr. Sarath Jayasooriya from Victoria conveyed greetings from their respective Chapters. AAUP Scholarships were awarded to students who had performed well at examinations.

A key event of the 29th AGM was the felicitation of late Dr. Dharmasena Pathiraja for his contributions to many fields of Art. The felicitation ceremony included

citations in English by Prof. Liyanage Amarakeerthi and in Sinhala by Mr. Priyantha Fonseka, followed by the presentation of a memento by the Vice-Chancellor to Mrs. Malini Pathiraja, the wife of late Dr. Dharmasena Pathiraja. Dr. Milinda Pathiraja (son), thanked the AAUP on behalf of the family. The inaugural ceremony of the AGM adorned with the Vote of Thanks proposed by the General Secretary, Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake. Thereafter, the Annual General Meeting of the AAUP was held, where office bearers for the coming year were elected. Fellowship and lunch were held at the Lodge.



Dignitaries at the Head Table: (L to R): Vice-Chancellor, Chief Guest, President AAUP, Guest of Honour & Secretary of AAUP



Inauguration of the AGM - Lighting the Traditional Oil Lamp by the Chief Guest (L) & the Guest of Honour (R)



Mrs. Lalitha Gunawrdena (L) introducing the Chief Guest and Prof. Siril Wijesundara (R) introducing the Guest of Honour

Address by the Chief Guest

The Chief Guest at the 29th AGM, 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 at the campus. As a very senior Alumnus of the University, Prof. Obeyesekere spoke on the importance of being passionate about whatever work one chooses or happens to be involved in. According to her, the powerful interest in one's subject or work stays with one through life whatever its vicissitudes and however long one lives. She named a few persons that she knew who have carried this passion for their work, including the late H. A. I. Goonetilleke. A former Librarian of this University he had a passion for Sri Lankan art and culture and had gifted his entire collection of Art and Cultural artifacts and entire collection of library books, to the University of Peradeniya. Prof. Obeyesekere made a request to the university community to build on this lovely campus, a museum to house this stunning collection of 20th century Sri Lankan Art. She also touched on the ethnic violence that erupted in Kandy in the recent past. Her hope is that coming generations of

teachers and students, in the years they spend in this multi ethnic campus, exposed to art, beauty, poetry, and much else, will be inspired to do everything in their power to prevent the horrors of such ethnic violence. Prof. Obeyesekere ended her talk with a plea to the younger generation, to have a passion for one's work; compassion and sensitivity to the needs of those around and a core of moral integrity.



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 stated that during the 1950-1960s the University catered to

undergraduates from all parts of Sri Lanka. During that period undergraduates interacted with students from different social classes, ethnic and religious backgrounds and learnt to understand each other. He reminisced of the period when students were served food in their Halls of residence, where all students had the same meal. Thereafter, Hall canteens were set up when students could buy their meals. Eventually students began to prepare their own food in the Halls of residence, specially the female students. He spoke of his personal experience and said that his home was in Galle and he had never met and interacted with Tamils until he entered the University. He traced the development of the University from the 1970s to the present day and stated that presently most of the undergraduates are from the Central Province. He stressed that the University of Peradeniya should truly be a National University with undergraduates from all parts of the island. This would help Sri Lanka on its journey to become a developed nation in the next ten years.



Section of the Audience at the 29th AGM



Donation of books by the Victoria Chapter to Agriculture and Science Libraries - Books being handed over by Dr. Sarath Jayasuriya of the Victoria Chapter to Dean Science



Greetings from sister Chapters being read: Colombo Chapter (L), Victoria Chapter (R)



Recipients of Scholarships at the AGM 2018

Scholarships Awarded at the AGM 2018

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 1st year examination	Ms. R.N.R. Ranasinghe
Prof. K.N. Jayathilake Memorial scholarship for Best performance in Buddhism and Indian Philosophy	Ms. S. Nadhiya A.M.S.Anuruddhika
Prof. I. Balasooriya 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 1st year examination -Faculty of Agriculture	P.B.G.Pathirana
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Arts	Ms. E.M.C.K. Ambanpola
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination - Faculty of Dental Sciences	Ms. W.V.H. Sewwandika
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Medicine	Ms. M.M. Sahlah
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination-Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	Ms. B.M.D.N. Kularatne
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	W.M.D.T.A. Walpola
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Science	A.Y.P. Perera
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at first year examination -Faculty of Management	M.R.M.U. Manikrama
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Engineering	Ranjith Shantha

Scholarships awarded by the New South Wales Chapter (PUAAN) 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 their 1 st year examination in Science	D.P.N.D. Amarasinghe
Most deserving 2nd 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



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



Late Dr. Dharmasena Pathiraja



The Vice Chancellor presenting the Memento to Mrs. Malini 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)



Dr. Milinda Pathiraja speaking on behalf of the family

AGM - Fellowship & Lunch at the Lodge

(The photos speak for themselves)



AGM photos- Photo credit goes to Viranga Wimalasiri of the Perabeats musical group

AAUP donates school items to displaced school children



Several isolated violent incidents in the Kandy Administrative District that took place in early March 2018 due to mob violence, displaced many school children among others. The members of the AAUP rose to the occasion and through the Divisional Secretary Kundasale distributed school bags (25), exercise books, drawing books, colour pencil boxes, carbon pen packets and a few other items among the school children. The value of the items donated exceeded Rs. 40,000. 00.

Musical concert “Makaranda” featuring Nissanka Diddeniya & four other well-known vocalists

The inaugural musical concert of “Makaranda” featuring five accomplished and well-known vocalists in the field of music in Sri Lanka was held on the 9th of June 2018 at the Nelum Pokuna Theatre. The AAUP was happy to be part of this inaugural concert and to sponsor a page in the souvenir. Several AAUP members attended the concert.



AAUP Stall at the General Convocation held on 05th July 2018

The General Convocation - 2017 of the University of Peradeniya was held on 05th July 2018 at the University Gymnasium. As in past years, this year too, the AAUP ran a stall in front of the Geography-Geology Block, with assistance from AAUP members and volunteers. At the stall, a variety of T-shirts with the AAUP logo and several souvenir items including mugs, caps, ladies' and gents' umbrellas, key tags and car stickers were sold to the cost of Rs.260,650.00

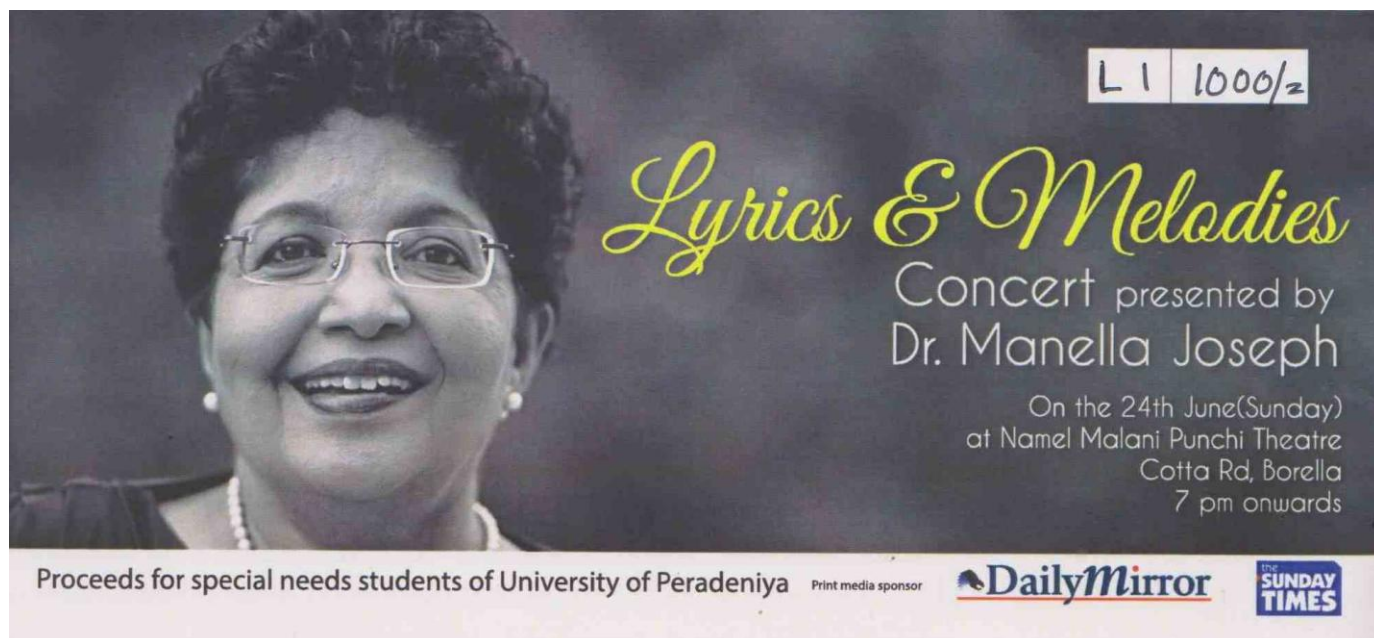


AAUP Stall held on the day of the General Convocation - 2017, where AAUP souvenirs and T-shirts were sold



A section of the crowd at the AAUP stall

Musical show by Dr. Manella Joseph in Aid of the SNRU



A musical show by Dr. Manella Joseph, organized by the Student Welfare Committee of the Colombo Chapter of the AAUP was held at the Namel & Malini Punchi Theatre, Borella. The sale of tickets for the show was undertaken by the members of the Colombo Chapter and the committee members of the AAUP. The proceeds from the show; Rs. 250,000 from the gate collection goes towards the AAUP project to support the Special Needs Resources Unit (SNRU) of the University of Peradeniya.

The AAUP is grateful to Ms. Sujatha Karunaratne, the Chairperson of the Organizing committee of the Colombo Chapter for coordinating this event held for a worthy cause.

Our very special thanks go to Dr. Manella Joseph for her magnanimous gesture.



Ms. Sujatha Karunaratne and Mr. K.M.D. Gunaratne of the Colombo Chapter handing over the cheque to the Treasurer of the AAUP at the AAUP office during the committee meeting held on the 11th of August 2018

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

Hunnasgiriya-Pokkapitiya Range is one of the most scenic areas with much greenery and natural beauty, a destination selected for a day trip by Nalin Jayathissa, a committee member who works for the Agrarian Services and is in charge of this region.

There were 28 AAUP participants and we started off at 7:00 am from the usual starting point at the Faculty of Science. We all shared our homemade breakfasts in the bus. Continued sing song by our members added to the gay atmosphere while traveling in the bus. We stopped for short breaks first at Hunnasgiriya and then near the breathtaking view point of the Mahiyangana range at the top of the hill.

After a windy and nerve-racking climb to the destination by bus, we were welcomed by a group of Agrarian Services staff. From that point, it was approximately a kilometer walk to the picnic area.

The picnic area is situated in a small remote village hamlet. The most arduous part in getting there was the crossing of the river along a 100 meters long sagging and hanging bridge. Downstream is the picnic area.

We had lot of fun bathing in the rocky stream. The rocks were rather slippery and the water was chilly. We were supplied with 15 bottles of fresh Toddy bought from the nearby village, which was very refreshing. Some of us joined the music group playing on the rocks. A snack of boiled Manioc with pork, served before lunch was enjoyed by all. Lunch was by the stream and a tasty meal with typical Sri Lankan curries followed by yogurt for desert.

After much fun by the stream, we packed our things and headed back to the bus. During our walk to the bus, there was a heavy down pour.

It was a great day indeed for all participants. We returned safely to the Faculty of Science by 6:30 p.m.

'Learning is an ongoing process and all the experiences, result in one or the other form of learning'.

By **Anura Dantanarayana**

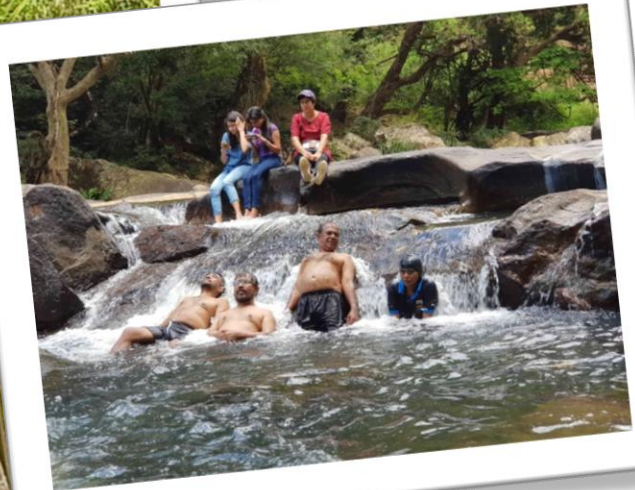


AAUP Day Trip

Participants

in

Action !!!



Thursday Forum (1) held on 13th June 2018 :

A Talk on Myths & Beliefs by Dr. Senarath Weragama

ජේරාදෙනි විශ්ව විද්‍යාලීය විද්‍යාර්ථීන්ගේ සංගමය සහ පීඨ ක්‍රීඩා සමාජය සංවිධානය කරන

**මිත්‍යා මත සහ ඇදහිලි
පිළිබඳ හැඳින්වීමක් සහ සාකච්ඡාවක්
වෛද්‍ය සෙනරත් වේරගම**

විසින් පවත්වනු ඇත.
මෙයට සමගාමීව මාතෘකාවට අදාළ ප්‍රායෝගික ක්‍රියාත්මක කර පෙන්වීමක්
දැය සිසිර මහතා කරනු ඇත.

2018 ජූනි මස 13 බදාදා සවස 7.00ට
ජේරාදෙනි විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ පීඨ සමාජ ශාලාවේදී

ඔබගේ සහභාගිත්වය අගයමු

An event jointly organized with the Faculty Sports Club & Recreation Center



The Speaker (center) with the President AAUP (left), Mr. Daya Sisira (R) in a pensive mood



A Section of the audience at the talk held at the Faculty Club

Thursday Forum (2) Held on 09th August 2018

Using a very practical title, Prof. Illangasekara spoke on diabetes, giving vivid examples from very recent experiences in patient care. The well structured talk touched on all pertinent areas of diabetes including the close connection between diabetes and heart disease. Dwelling more on the latter Prof. Illangasekara elaborated on causes, symptoms, types of heart diseases, treatment, investigations available in government hospitals and more importantly, prevention.

Factors that predispose persons to heart disease such as family history, obesity, smoking, food habits, and sedentary life style

were explained together with what preventive measures one could take. The audience was very attentive and had many questions to ask. After the talk the speaker was hosted to dinner at the Peradeniya Rest House. The organizers and several members joined the dinner. All in all the talk gave a useful message. The event was well attended.

THURSDAY FORUM POPULAR TALK SERIES Speaker

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

Visits by Members of Foreign Chapters of the AAUP

The President of the AAUP met the following members from Foreign Chapters

- Dr. Kithsiri B. Dassanayake from the Alumni Association Victoria (PUAAViC), Australia visited the AAUP office on 23rd January 2018 and discussed funding for the Studentship program.
- Dr. Sarath Jayasuriya from the Alumni Association Victoria (PUAAViC), attended the AAUP AGM on 25th March 2018 and made donation of library books in Science & Agriculture.
- Dr. Sathyawadi Rajapakse from the Alumni Association of New South Wales (PUAAN) visited the AAUP office on 11th May 2018 and discussed the assistance programs by PUAAN.
- Dr. Kithsiri B Dassanayake, from the Alumni Association Victoria (PUAAViC) visited the AAUP office on 13th July 2018 and Discussed Studentship awards, and possible future projects of common benefit. He also met some recipients of Studentships.

Visits made by the President AAUP

President, Eng. Sarath Seneviratne represented the AAUP at the AGM of the Wayamba Chapter in Kurunegala, held on 9th June 2018.

Executive Committee Meetings of the AAUP

Six Executive Meetings were held during the six months period on every 2nd Thursday of the month in the AAUP Office

- 303rd Meeting – Held on 11th March 2018
- 304th Meeting - Held on 08th April 2018
- 305th Meeting – Held on 13th May 2018
- 306th Meeting – Held on 10th June 2018
- 307th Meeting – Held on 08th July 2018
- 308th Meeting – Held on 12th August 2018



Members at committee meetings held in the AAUP office

Obituary: A Brief Appreciation

It is with deep sorrow we record the passing away of Shanthi de Abrew, a former Director of Physical Education (1983-1989) at Peradeniya University, on the 12th of August 2018, at the age of 84 years. Shanthi was a long standing member of the AAUP, having graduated from the University of Peradeniya in 1956. She was a well known, outstanding sports woman in the 1970's and 1980's, excelling in many sports; high jump, long jump, badminton, tennis, hurdles, to name a few. She was a double international and won Sri Lanka colours for athletics and table tennis, a rare achievement. Shanthi was a graduate with a Bachelor's Degree from Peradeniya University and a Master's Degree in Physical Education from the USA under a Fulbright Award. Shanthi is remembered as an honest, dedicated and committed sports woman, loved by all who knew her.

***AAUP e-Newsletter was
Compiled by the***

Editor of the AAUP

Typesetting by

*Dr. Sachith Abeysundara
of the Dept. of Statistics &
Computer Science,
Faculty of Science,
University of Peradeniya*