



AAUP e-Newsletter

News update of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya

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NEWSLETTER : MARCH - AUGUST 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Annual Trip
- Thursday Forum
- ExCo Meetings
- Award of Studentships
- An Appreciation: Late Professor Ashley Halpe
- AAUP Souvenirs Collection

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The year, 2017 is an important and eventful year for the University of Peradeniya, as well as the AAUP. This year, the University celebrates its

Diamond Jubilee, 75 years of its existence, while the AAUP celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

I am indeed glad to be elected as the President for this eventful year. While thanking the membership for the confidence they have shown in me, I would like to request them to assist me and the committee in carrying out activities planned for this Diamond Jubilee year.

Since its inception, the AAUP has been an integral part of the University. The Alumni Association has conducted several programs to assist the university, its alumni, and the university community. Alumni have been a great strength to the Association in

conducting these programs. I would like to take this opportunity to request more Peradeniya graduates to join the AAUP, participate actively in its projects and enjoy the company of fellow members.

As a part of the Jubilee celebrations, the AAUP has planned a 'Graduates' Day' for all past Peradeniya graduates, their families and friends. This event, scheduled for 14 October 2017, would provide an opportunity for alumni to revisit the salubrious environment of their alma mater, meet long lost friends and reminisce about the 'good old days'. Details of the event will be announced through newspaper advertisements and email.

The AAUP has three regional Chapters: in Colombo, Ruhuna and Wayamba. This year we plan to have get-togethers in these regions to promote closer ties among all members. I would like to take this opportunity to invite the graduates of UoP to become members of the AAUP and join in the activities planned for this Jubilee year.

The Committee is contactable through the AAUP office at the WUS building.

The 28th AGM — Pre-AGM Session

This year on a decision of the subcommittee on University Development, a pre-AGM Sessions to discuss current issues of the university was held on the eve of the 28th AGM. It was attended by alumni who could provide ideas and financial assistance to current issues of the university, The discussion focused on (i) Ways and means of putting a stop to ragging (ii) Improving health and sanitary facilities in the Halls of residence, and many ideas were exchanged.

Participants at the Pre - AGM Session in a serious discussion and later during fellowship at the Lodge.



The 28th AGM - 9 March 2017

The 28th AGM, held on 9 March 2017, was inaugurated with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp by the Chief Guest, Dr. Neil Halpe; Prof. Shaluka Kodithuwakku, representing the Vice-Chancellor; Prof. W.M. Thilakaratne, Dean, Faculty of the Dental Sciences; Prof. Rupika Rajakaruana, the President/ AAUP; Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayeke, the General Secretary/AAUP; Mr. K. M. D. Gunaratne, the President/Colombo Chapter; Mr. T.L Chandrasiri, the President/Ruhuna Chapter and Mrs. Bridget Halpe, on behalf of the family of late Prof. Ashley Halpe



Address by the Chief Guest –Dr. Neil Halpe

The Chief Guest, Dr. Neil Halpe, an eminent Gynecologist & Obstetrician, an alumnus and a former President of the AAUP, in his address recollected the pleasant time he spent at the University bringing back fond memories of the Golden years of the University. He focused on the changes that have occurred over time. He commented on the increase in the numbers seeking higher education and its consequences on the university system. He stressed the importance of the role that bureaucrats and politicians have to play in the organization of the education system in the future.



A total of over 75 Alumni attended the 27th AGM held at the Chemistry Upper Lecture Theater.

*Celebration of the life & work of the late Professor the 28th AGM of the Alumni of
the life & work of the late Professor of 2017
of the life & work of the late Professor Ashley Halpe*



Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardena highlighting the life and work of the late Professor Ashley Halpe, who was felicitated posthumously



Prof. Saluka Kodithuwakku representing the Vice-Chancellor, presenting the Felicitation souvenir to Mrs. Bridget Halpe.

Award of Scholarships at the AGM

Prof. Ashley Halpe Scholarship for Excellence in English at the 1st Year Examination: G.L.R.I Alwis (A/14/096)

Mr. Y. W. Gunawardena Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Geography at the 1st Year Examination: C.S. Arambegedara (A/14/033)

Sydney NSW Alumni Awards for Excellence at the First Examination I Arts: I.A. Kulathunga (A/14/268)

Prof. B.L.T. de Silva Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Biology -1st year - 2016: K.H.B. De Silva (S/14/006)

Prof. I. Balasooriya Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Botany -3rd year - 2016: U.D.T.D. Dharmasena (S/12/161)

**Prof. H.W. Dias Scholarship for Excellence in Chemistry- 3rd Year
H M I D K Herath**





Dr. Jayalath Edirisinghe who enrolled the largest number of new members to the Association, receiving a token of appreciation.

Election of office bearers for 2017/18



*The Outgoing President, Secretary & Treasurer (R-L)
Prof. Rupika Rajakaruna, Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake
and Dr. Amalka Pinidiyaarachchi.*



Engineer Sarath Senevitarne was unanimously elected for the post of President. On assuming duties, the newly elected President and Secretary called for nominations for office bearers for the year 2017/2018.

The Executive Committee 2017/2018

President : Eng. Sarath Senevirathne
Immediate Past-President : Prof. Rupika Rajakaruna
Vice-Presidents : Dr. Anura P. Dantanarayana
Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardana
Prof. Siril Wijesundara
Prof. Swarna Wimalasiri
General Secretary : Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake
Assistant Secretaries : Prof. Chantha Jayawardena
Prof. Terrence Madhujith
Treasurer : Dr. Amalka Pinidiyaarachchi
Assistant Treasurer : Dr. Hemalie Nandalal
Editor : Prof. Jayanthi Edirisinghe
Committee Members : Dr. Shyama Banneheka
Dr. Nandana Wijesinghe
Dr. Asoka Wickramasinghe
Ms. Dharshimi Hulugalla
Dr. Ayesh Jayasinghe
Prof. Savitri Kumar
Mrs. Asoka Dissanayake
Mrs. Chandra Weerawardana
Prof. Chandani Perera
Dr. Ranjith Jayasekara
Mr. Sisira Priyarathna

AGM-Fellowship & Lunch at the Lodge



Ladies in conversation



Guests at lunch –Marquees in the garden of the Lodge



Senior & not so senior alumni with the outgoing President



Alumni singing to the tune of the band



Very senior Alumni enjoying the rhythm of music



The Vice-Chancellor's wife drawing the lucky raffle ticket

“Thursday Forum” lecture series

AAUP Thursday Forum

All are Welcome

Topic: Lightning and Protection against Lightning Hazards
Speaker: Mr. Keerthi Abahayasingha, Former Director of Meteorology
When: 27th April 2017 at 6.30pm
Where: Auditorium, Department of Chemistry



Mr. Abhayasinghe in the introduction to his address touched on the myths and truths about natural disasters. Thereafter, he explained the behaviour of clouds and associated activities, and the scientific explanation for thunder and lightning. He also spoke on measures that can be taken to protect life and electrical items. A lively discussion followed the talk, with participants posing several real life problems to the speaker.

Student Affairs

Sub-committee on Continuing Education and Extension Education looked into the requirements of the Special Needs Center in the Faculty of the University. They are looking for the ways to address the issues.

Photo
Special Need Centre , University

Student Welfare

Members of the AAUP Colombo Chapter Donate Equipment to Students with Special Needs in the Faculty of Arts

The ceremony held at the Seminar Room of the Faculty of Arts on the morning of 10 May 2017.



Left: X donating the equipment . Y receiving the equipment on behalf of the university The academic member in charge of the program for the special needs students receiving the donation on behalf of the University



Section of the audience at the ceremony

General Convocation 2016 - Held on 25th May 2017



Convocation procession led by the Vice-chancellor & the Deputy Vice-chancellor, making its way to the Gymnasium.



Ceremonial opening of the of the General Convocation 2016 with the singing of Jayamanagala Gatha



Ceremonial Opening –Lighting of the Traditional Oil lamp by the Vice Chancellor -Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake (Left) and the Chancellor– Professor K.M. de Silva (Center)



Vice-Chancellor conferring the Degree on a graduand

The AAUP Stall on the day of the Convocation



The AAUP make shift stall organized on the day of the Convocation. T-shirts, Mugs & Car stickers with the University logo were put on display for sale. Souvenir items including fifty T-shirts to the value of Rs. 63,900/- were sold at the stall.

AAUP Day Trip to

This special day trip was planned as an educational trip to visit the Moragahakanda Dam and the project site on May 20th. 2017. A whopping 39 members participated on this trip. The Moragahakanda Dam site is approximately 81 km from the University of Peradeniya and is a 2.5 hour drive by bus.

On our way to the Moragahakanda Dam we shared home made breakfast on the bus, while travelling. For tea and coffee and for a small rest we stopped at a restaurant (managed by the Sri Lankan Army) at Naula. Our first stop was at a scenic point which is a part of the reservoir. - which had a breathtaking view. We reached the project site at around 11:30 a.m. and were received by the Project Engineers led by the Chief Project Engineer, Mr. Kalubanda, a graduate of our University. Mr. Kalubanda took us on a personal tour of the site whilst explaining all the minute details of the project.

It was a unique day to visit the site since one of the turbines was being tested for the very first time. We were taken down to the dam where we were shown all the operations. We also received a detailed explanation as to how these sophisticated machines work. By 2:00 pm, we all were bit tired and ready for a good lunch.

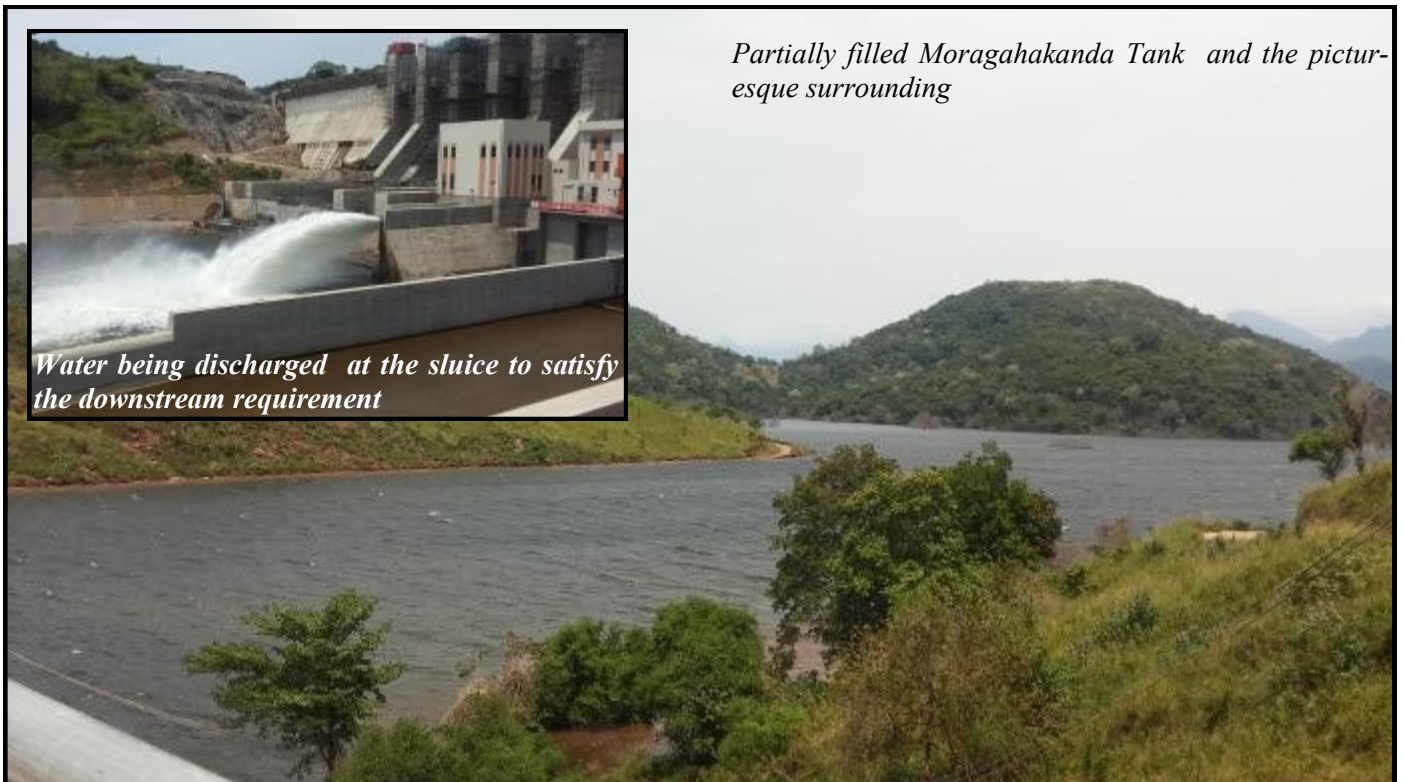
Lunch was arranged by some of the engineers who had graduated from our University. After consuming a few cool beers, we all enjoyed the sumptuous lunch. Finally, our AAUP President, Mr. Sarath Senevirathne addressed the gathering and thanked all of the staff for arranging everything so graciously.

We reached the University premises by 6:30 p.m. after a brief stop at the SL Army run restaurant at Naula for a cup of tea/coffee.

Moragahakanda Dam & Project site



Partially filled Moragahakanda Tank and the picturesque surrounding



Pictures from Moragahakanda



A rare opportunity witnessed: Contractors at work



Deputy Project Director responding to a questions posed by Prof. Gunawardena



Project Director surrounded by the participants



Break for breakfast



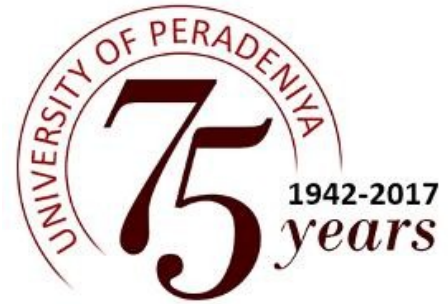
Happy faces: Posing with the Chief Organizer



Participants preparing for the group photo

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the University

The main event of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations was held on 06 July 2017 at the Arts Theatre. Among other activities conducted on this occasion, the release of a commemorative stamp and the first-day cover was a major event. A talk on “Vision for the future” was made by a former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Emeritus C.M. Maddumabandara



Dignitaries seated in the front row



Commemorative Plaque placed at Galaha Junction



Release of the Commemorative Stamp & First-day cover

The AAUP held a stall at the IT foyer, where specially T-Shirt with the Diamond Jubilee logo was on sale.

Photo

Photo

Monthly ExCo

Meetings of the AAUP

ExCo meetings were held on the second Sunday of each month, at the AAUP office, with the President, Eng. Sarath Se-

12 March 2017

09 April 2017

14 May 2017

11 June 2017

09 July 2017

13 August 2017

Photo

The Graduates Day Program

to be conducted by the AAUP

The year 2017 is a milestone in the history of the University of Peradeniya, being the 75th anniversary of its existence since its inception in 1942.

To mark its Diamond Jubilee celebrations an inaugural session was held in March, when the history of the University was recapitulated by former Vice-Chancellors and distinguished historians.

The major event of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations was held in July this year when.....

In addition to these two major events, several activities are being planned by different Faculties and Associations of the University.

The AAUP on its part is planning a '**Graduates Day**'

Date: 14 October 2017 **Time:** 6.00 pm **Venue:** Faculty Club

- The major event will be a "**Paduru party**" organised by the **Colombo Chapter**, with several of the well known actors of the Sathchandra Era giving the lead.
- Reputed companies would put up Food and Beverage stalls.
- A program of activities are in the pipeline.
- Entrance is Free

AAUP e-Newsletter : March – August 2017



Compiled & Edited by: Prof. Jayanthi Edirisinghe & Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardena

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