



AAUP e-Newsletter

March - August 2019

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:

30th AGM of the AAUP

Scholarships

Activities

Annual Trip

Thursday Forum

Obituaries



30th AGM of the AAUP held on 24th March 2019

Message from the Newly Elected President Prof. Siril Wijesundara



It is a great pleasure for me to send this message as the newly elected President of the AAUP and more so at a time when the University of Peradeniya is ranked number one among the universities in Sri Lanka. However, in the global ranking of universities we are far behind. All stake holders should work together to improve the image of the university globally.

The AAUP would give its fullest support in achieving this goal. As in past years, this year too, the AAUP is engaged in activities to assist needy students, conduct English classes for new entrants to the Faculty of Arts from outstation schools, conduct spoken Tamil classes for academic staff and alumni to bring about ethnic harmony among the university community and give a hand to improve the facilities in the Green room of the Sarathchandra Open Air Theatre. Currently, state Universities in Sri Lanka, including Peradeniya, are facing many challenges. It is a time for all alumni both within and outside Sri Lanka, to get together to help our alma mater to increase its global ranking and regain the past glory.

Newly Elected Executive Committee

President- Prof. Siril Wijesundara

Immed. Past President- Eng. Sarath Seneviratne

General Secretary - Ms. Hema Gamage

Treasurer - Mr. Ravi Mulleriyawa

Vice President - Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake

Vice President - Dr. Anura Danthanarayana

Vice President - Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardena

Vice President - Prof. S.P. Nissanka

Vice President - Dr. Anoja Wanigasekera

Editor - Prof. Jayanthi Edirisinghe

Asst. Secretary - Dr. DMSB Botota

Asst. Secretary - Mr. Nalin Jayatissa

Asst. Treasurer - Dr. Damayanthi Manike

Committee Members:

Prof. Shayama Banneheka

Dr. Jagath Gunatilake

Dr. Prabath Gunathilaka

Prof. Barana Jayawardena

Prof. Chantha Jayawardena

Mr. K.A.H. Kalugampitiya

Prof. Savitri Kumar

Dr. Hemali Nandalal

Dr. Amalka Pinidiyaarachchi

Prof. Rupika Rajakaruna

Dr. V. Sivakumar

Mr. Ashwin Wickramasooriya

Mrs. Chandra Weerawardena

Mr. R.M.P.B Rathnayake

Mr. Ananda Dharmaratna

The 30th AGM of the AAUP

The 30th Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP) was held on 24th March 2019 at the Chemistry Lecture Theater. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Emeritus Professor Vidyajothi C.B. Dissanayake; Dr. Chandra Embuldeniya 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 members and invitees to the 30th AGM. He thanked the ExCo members for their hard work and cooperation extended to him during his two year tenure as the President. The Vice Chancellor; Professor Upul Dissanayake, in his address, touched on the progress made by the University in the recent past, particularly the out-reach programs. Dr. Jagath Gunatilake made a short introduction of the Guest of Honour followed by the introduction of the Chief Guest by Prof. Siril Wijesundara. The dignitaries addressed the gathering. Greetings from sister Chapters in Colombo and Wayamba were conveyed by the respective Presidents; Col. Dr. Udula Krishnaratne and Mr. Ananda Sahabandu. Thereafter, AAUP Scholarships were awarded to students who had performed well at examinations.

A key event of the 30th AGM was the felicitation of Emeritus Professor Ratna Handurukande for her contributions to the study of Pali and Sanskrit. Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardena in her citation of this Extraordinary alumna, paid a tribute to her humane qualities. The Vice-Chancellor presented a memento. Prof. Handurukande thanked the AAUP for the kind gesture. The inaugural ceremony of the AGM adjourned with the Vote of Thanks proposed by the General Secretary, Dr. Anoja Wanigasekara. The final activity of the AGM was the election of office bearers for the coming year. This was followed by fellowship and lunch at the Lodge.

Inauguration of the 30th AGM of the AAUP



Inauguration of the 30th AGM - Dignitaries Lighting the Traditional Oil lamp



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake addressing the gathering



President of the AAUP, Eng. Sarath Seneviratne (L) & the Treasurer, Mr. Ravi Mulleriyawa (R) at the Head Table during the inaugural session



Section of the Audience at the 30th AGM



Introduction of the Chief Guest by Dr. Jagath Gunatilake (L) & the Guest of Honour by Prof. Siril Wijesundara (R)

Address by the Chief Guest
Emeritus Professor
Vidyajothi C.B. Dissanayake



The Chief Guest at the 30th AGM, Professor C.B. Dissanayake focused on Geology and Health in his address. He commenced his address on a philosophical note referring to the black swan theory or events - a metaphor that describes a sudden, extraordinary event that comes as a surprise and has a major effect on many spheres. He cited the rise of the Internet, the personal computers, World War I, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the September 11, 2001 attacks as examples of black swan events.

He focused on the necessity for different approaches to tackle such issues; the need to move off the beaten track, lateral thinking, necessity to cross boundaries, multidisciplinary approaches as means of mitigating such events were highlighted.

Prof. Dissanayake elaborated on the inter connections between health and geology and explained as to why courses on such topics were introduced into the Geology teaching curriculum at a very early stage. How the country is currently trying to overcome Health issues stemming from such associations were outlined.

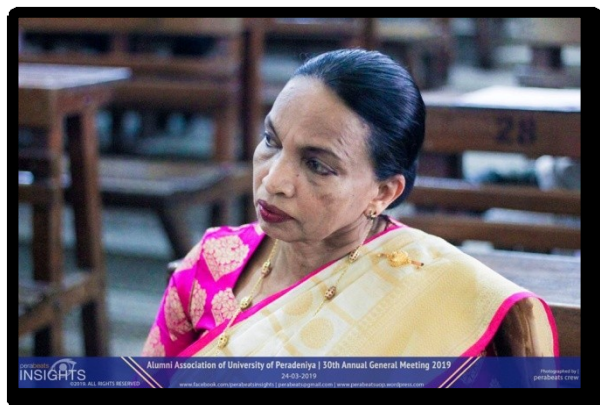
Address by the Guest of Honour
Dr. Chandra Embuldeniya



The Guest of Honour, entrepreneur, and former Vice Chancellor, Uva Wellassa University Dr. Chandra Embuldeniya, at the commencement of his talk posed the question – “Why are we here?” He went on to explain that a University is an institution for higher education, where youth join, study, graduate and find employment and return for fellowship and camaraderie at events such as the one that we are celebrating today.

Thereafter, Dr. Embuldeniya elaborated on his experience beyond the university by working in several institutions. He emphasized that a university should provide scope for the young generation to concentrate on doing a few things right by integrating knowledge and incorporating change where necessary. He also, stressed the need for good governance to succeed and good leadership qualities. The establishment of the UVA- Wellassa University is a case in point.

Greetings from the Sister Chapters



*Colonel Dr. Udula Krishnaratne, President
Colombo Chapter*



*Mr. Ananda Sahabandu, President
Wayamba Chapter*

Award of AAUP Scholarships at the 30th AGM



*Prof. Swarna Wimalasiri,
Chairperson of the AAUP
Sub-Committee on Scholarships,
announcing the recipients of AAUP
Scholarships*



**Prof. Ashley Halpe Memorial
Scholarship**



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



**Prof. K.N. Jayatilleke Memorial
Scholarship**



**Mr. Y.W. Gunawradena Memorial
Scholarship**



Prof. H.W. Dias Scholarship



**Prof. I. Balasooriya Memorial
Scholarship**

Recipients of Scholarships Awarded for the Best Performance at Examinations in 2018/2019

Name of the Scholarship/Award	Recipients
Prof. Ashley Halpe Memorial scholarship for Best performance in English at 1 st year examination	N.S. Amarasekara
Mr. Y.W. Gunawardena Memorial scholarship for Best performance in Geography at 1st year examination	R.M.A. Dananjani
Prof. K.N. Jayathilake Memorial scholarship for Best performance in Buddhism and Indian Philosophy	S. Samadara Hewawasam
Prof. I. Balasooriya memorial scholarship for Best performance in Botany at 300 level examination	U.N. Bokalamulla
Prof. B.L.T. De Silva memorial scholarship for Best performance in Biology at 1 st Year examination	K.A. Kalupahana
Prof. H.W. Dias scholarship for Best performance in Inorganic Chemistry paper at 3 rd year examination	D.G. Rajapaksha
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Agriculture	J.B.S.K. Jayantha
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Arts	K.P.D.S. Kandangamuwa
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination - Faculty of Dental Sciences	M.C.T. Hewapathirana
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Medicine	N.A.D.S. Wimalarathne W.R.L. Withana
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination-Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	R.A.U. Kaushalya
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	S.S. Dalugoda
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Science	W.M.A. Wickramasinghe
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at first year examination -Faculty of Management	N. Ashviny
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1st year examination -Faculty of Engineering	L.H.S.U. Balasooriya

Felicitations of an Extra Ordinary Alumna
Emeritus Professor Ratna Handurukande, at the 30th AGM



Prof. Handurukande being welcomed with a bouquet



Reading of the Felicitation Citation by Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardena



Prof. Handurukande thanking the AAUP for the kind gesture



The outgoing General Secretary, Dr. Anoja Wanigasekara proposing the Vote of Thanks, marking the end of the inaugural ceremony of the 30th AGM

30th AGM - Fellowship & Lunch at the Lodge (The photos speak for themselves)



AGM photo Credit - Viranga Wimalasiri
of the Perabeats musical group

AAUP Activities: March - August 2019

Meeting with the Vice-Chancellor & the Dean/Faculty of Arts

The Subcommittee on Continuing and Extension Education had an early meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Upul. B. Dissanayake on 20th June 2019 to find out how the expertise of the AAUP members could help the University community. The Vice-Chancellor stressed the need to improve the English language skills of the Non-academic staff, in the first instance. Thereafter, he brought to the notice of the members the dire state of the Green room of the Open Air Theater and the need for renovation, if the AAUP membership could undertake. The Vice-Chancellor was informed of the AAUP intention to hold spoken Tamil classes for members of the University Community and requested for resource persons from the University.

Following the meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, members of the Subcommittee on Continuing and Extension Education held a meeting on 17th July 2019 with the Dean/Arts, Prof. O.G. Dayaratne Banda. Discussions were on ways and means of helping students entering the Faculty of Arts. The Dean expressed his concern about the poor knowledge of English of students entering the Faculty from outstation schools where English teachers are not available. A request by the Dean to help this group of students was undertaken by the Sub-Committee. Plans are under way to hold extra English classes for 100 First year Arts students, during their second semester.

AAUP holds spoken Tamil Classes

The AAUP Sub-Committee on Continuing and Extension Education full-filled a long felt request of the AAUP membership by organizing Spoken Tamil classes. The program on spoken Tamil was organized in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Association of Graduate Women Kandy (SLAGWK) whose members are the volunteer resource persons, led by Mrs. Pat Jayatilleke. Classes commenced on 01st July 2019 and are held once every week on Mondays at the AAUP Office and are attended by academic staff members and AAUP members.



Spoken Tamil class in progress at the AAUP office, with Ms. Pat Jayatilleke (R) taking the lead assisted by Ms. Indira Kandasamy (C) & Ms. Kamila Rasheed (L)



AAUP's participation at the General Convocation - 2018

held on 04th July 2019

As in previous years, the AAUP embarked on a fund raising program to coincide with the event. A make- shift sales outlet was organized in the Geology-Geography porch where a variety of AAUP souvenirs; T-shirts, caps, mugs, key tags, umbrellas, car stickers, cloth carrier bags and the published book on "Garden University of Peradeniya" were on sale. Committee members took turns to help. The collection made from the sale of souvenirs on the day of the Convocation was Rs.178,000.00. A membership drive was also launched to attract past graduates to join the AAUP.

Members of the AAUP also undertook to make announcements on activities of the AAUP, through the Media Desk set up for the Convocation ceremony.



Sale of AAUP souvenirs by members at the make- shift sales outlet put up in the Geology-Geography porch

New look to the AAUP Office



AAUP office with a face-lift, given by the newly elected Secretary, Ms. Hema Gamage



An ExCo Meeting in Progress at the AAUP Office

AAUP Annual Two Day Trip to the Uva Province

August 29th and 30th, 2019

This year's annual AAUP trip was to Haputhale, the infamous Uva basin. Although there was an overwhelming response from the membership, the number had to be limited to 40 participants due to logistical issues.

The enthusiastic participants set off on the 2-day trip at 7.00 a.m. on Thursday August 29th from the Faculty of Science. The very first stop was for breakfast at the AnnaPoorni restaurant, set in a picturesque landscape at the Chinmaya Mission at Thawalanthenna. After a heavy breakfast of roti, dosa, wada etc. we headed straight to Haputhale. The journey onwards was very entertaining with lots of singing. Soon we reached Sirilak View Hotel, Haputhale, beautifully set on the slopes of a hill just below the town. The hotel could accommodate all participants comfortably. From our bed rooms a breathtaking view of the Haputhale mountain ridges and valleys with the Udawalawe reservoir in the backdrop was clearly visible. After a sumptuous lunch with a few glasses of beer and spirits, participants relaxed for a short while.

The afternoon's program included a visit to the tallest waterfall in Sri Lanka - Bambarakande. The access up to the waterfall by bus was not

possible due to the somewhat narrow rugged road uphill, so a few tuk-tuks, an open truck and a safari jeep that were available on site were hired. At the end of the ride, some of the adventurous participants walked down to the foot of the waterfall, while others stayed back to enjoy the view and a drink of *Belimal* with jaggery.

Soon it was time for an extraordinary dinner arranged by our AAUP Colombo Chapter President, Col. Dr. Udula Krishnaratne at the Diyathalawa Army Base Camp. It was a fabulous dinner in a well laid out setting with music and singing by army musicians entertaining us till late night. The participants joined in the sing song with several solos from veteran singers in the group, some danced to the tune of music. We headed to Ella the next morning, 30 km from Haputhale to see the famous Demodara - Nine Arch Bridge, an engineering marvel built during the British time. The group spent time walking on the stone built arched train bridge – "one of the things that one must do in Sri Lanka". We started on our return journey, had lunch on the way in Badulla and tea at Kirithibandarapura to reach Peradeniya by 5.30 p.m. Another memorable trip of the AAUP thus, came to an end.

by Anura Dantanarayana



The over enthusiastic group, posing on the wayside



A splendid view of the “Nine Arches – Railway bridge” with the participants intermingling with the visitors that have come to witness and walk along this Engineering marvel-

Participants enjoying a bumpy ride in a truck on the rugged road to the Bambarakande waterfall



Thursday Forum - Revived

The AAUP Thursday Forum Seminar Series was revived after many months with the presentation by Prof. Sarath Edirisinghe, a medical Parasitologist who has a passion for history. His talk took the audience through a journey spanning six centuries- revisiting Peradeniya.

AAUP THURSDAY FORUM SEMINAR SERIES-2019

Thursday August 29th, 2019 at 6:30 PM
At the Faculty Club premises

SPEAKER

Professor Sarath Edirisinghe

Consultant Medical Parasitologist & Former Professor in Medical Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya & Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

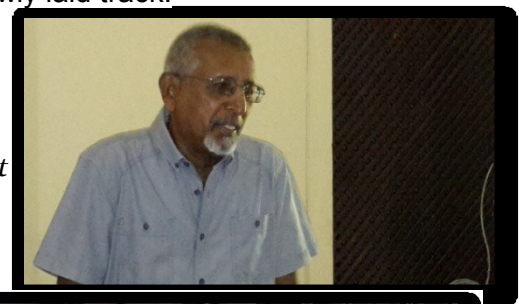
SEMINAR TITLE

***RE-VISITING PERADENIYA-
A JOURNEY THROUGH SIX CENTURIES***

All are welcome

Prof. Edirisinghe began his talk by addressing the antiquity of the name “Peradeniya”, explaining the etymology of the name. Thereafter, he moved on to three major events/periods in history. Namely, the glorious battle in the vicinity of Peradeniya, birth of the Royal Botanical Garden and horse racing in *Kande Uda Rata* with a description of the Peradeniya race course and details of the races run on this newly laid track.

Prof. Sarath Edirisinghe, stressing a point



Section of the audience at the talk -AAUP THURSDAY FORUM held in collaboration with the Faculty Club

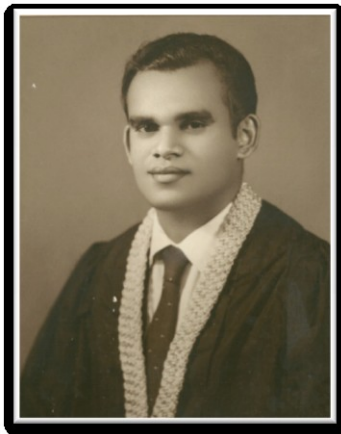
Thursday Forum

The AAUP wishes to keep its Thursday Forum SEMINAR SERIES alive & make it an opportunity for the University Community & the AAUP Membership to renew friendships, forge new friendships and have fellowship.

If you have an interesting and important topic to speak on and share it with your former colleagues and their family members, please contact the AAUP Office and or any of the AAUP Office bearers.

Any other idea you wish to pursue as an alumnus of the University of Peradeniya, please Get in touch with us.

Obituaries



*Mr. Siripala Weerawardena
as a young graduate*

It is with sadness that we record the passing away of Mr. Siripala Weerawardena on 19th May 2019. He was a dedicated alumnus of the University of Peradeniya who contributed Rs. 2 million to the Museum/ Art gallery project of the University.



Rupees 2 million solicited by the Colombo Chapter of the AAUP being handed over to the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kapila Gunasekara by Mr. Bandula Weerawardena on behalf of Mr. Siripala Weerawardena (Source: AAUP Wayamba Chapter Newsletter, Volume 1, Series 1, Jan. 2012)

Professor R.G. Panabokke : Vice-Chancellor University of Peradeniya (1985-1988)



It is with deep sorrow that the AAUP records the demise of Professor Ralph G. Panabokke, a Consultant Pathologist and a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya (1985-1988). He held several important positions: Professor and the Head of Pathology, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and the Director, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo. Prof. Panabokke had been instrumental in obtaining funding and establishing the Teaching Hospital in Peradeniya. The AAUP pays a special tribute to Professor Panabokke as its very first member and for his contribution to the AAUP in the initial stages of its establishment.

The Editor acknowledges Dr. Sachith Abeyesundara of the Department of Statistics & Computer Science, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya for Typesetting the AAUP e-Newsletter