

# AAUP NEWSLETTER

March 2022

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

### Message from the President, Prof. Pradeepa Bandaranayake

It is with great pleasure and humility that I stand here, today, as president of the AAUP 2021-2022, representing all those who proudly call themselves *Pera Alumni*. *Pera* was indeed a milestone in our journey through life. The academic pursuits, the experience of community living and the fun and frolic we experienced at *Pera* have made us what we are today.

Whether we are recent graduates or graduates of yesteryear, living in Peradeniya or have journeyed to faraway places, memories of *Pera* will remain a significant feature of our personal lives, reminding us of the debt we owe our Alma Mater. The AAUP helps us to give back... to support and develop the University community.

This year was admittedly a difficult one. However, we focused on serving current students and supporting the University, thereby elevating the status of the alumni experience. We were able to bring you new and revitalized programs that allowed you to express your gratitude to your Alma Mater.

During this challenging time, it is encouraging to know that our Alma Mater continues to be strong and provides an excellent education that prepares current students for their intended careers whilst inculcating strong moral and ethical values. However, your support is needed. I want to request you find ways and means to help the University and the student body today and in the future.

AAUP members can engage with the University and their fellow alumni in many ways:

- Attend and participate in events and activities, live or virtual
- Volunteer for alumni committees and activities
- Join the student mentoring program
- Become an alumni ambassador to current students
- Display your pride by wearing *Pera* gear
- Consider a financial gift to the AAUP Needy Student Fund, the AAUP Student Welfare Fund, the AAUP Language Teaching Fund, or the AAUP Alumni Welfare Fund.

The AAUP office at the Student Centre is always open. I humbly request you, as fellow alumni, to do *your* part to keep the University of Peradeniya's legacy alive and flourishing.

*It's time to give back to your alma mater!*



## Executive Committee Members 2021/2022

President: Prof. Pradeepa Bandaranayake

Immediate Past President: Prof. Siril

Wijesundara

Secretary: Dr Samanthaika Jagoda

Treasurer: Dr Jayalath Edirisinghe

Asst. Secretary: Mrs Sujatha Karunaratne

Asst. Secretary: Dr Bimali Weerakoon

Vice-Presidents: Dr Amalka Pinidiyaracchi

Prof. Anoja Wanigasekera

Dr V. Sivakumar

Eng. Sarath Seneviratne,

Col. Dr Udula Krishnaratne

Editor: Prof. Rupika Rajakaruna

Assistant Treasurer: Dr Damayanthi Menike

Committee Members: Mr M.K.S. Kumarage,

Mr A.M.G.B Abeysinghe

Ms Hema Gamage

Prof. Namali Handegama

Dr S.B. Botota

Mrs Lalitha Gunawardena

Mr Nalin Jayatissa

Mr Ravi Mulleriyawa,

Dr Anura Danthanarayana

Prof. S.P Nissanka

Prof. Jayanthi Edirisinghe

Dr Sunishka Ponnampereuma

Mrs M.L. Pathirathna

Mr R.M. S. K. Piyaratne

Mr K.A.H. Kalugampitiya



AGM  
AAUP ACTIVITIES  
CHAPTER NEWS

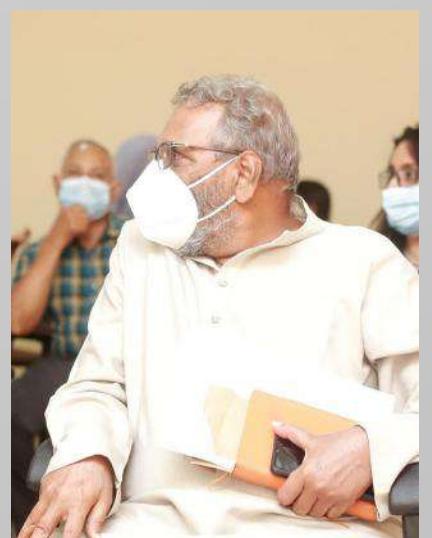
INSIDE THIS ISSUE  
STUDENTSHIPS  
PERADENIYA NEWS  
AAUP PROJECTS

SOUVENIRS  
OBITUARIES  
CONCEPT STORE



## The 32nd AGM of the AAUP held on March 27, 2021

The 32nd AGM was held as a hybrid event under the Presidency of Prof. Siril Wijesundara. It was held virtually through Zoom and in-person with a limited number of participants at the Department of Animal Science in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Peradeniya. The chief guest on the occasion was former chairman of the election commission, Mr Mahinda Deshapriya. The guest of honour was Prof. S.A. Kulasooriya, an emeritus professor of the University. The Vice-Chancellor and AAUP Vice-Patron, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake also graced the occasion. After the lighting of the traditional oil lamp by the dignitaries, the President welcomed the invitees and the members to the AGM. A key event of the AGM was the felicitation of Emeritus Prof. Savitri Kumar, a former Professor of Organic Chemistry who has served 43 years at the Faculty of Science and has made a significant contribution to the AAUP. The vote of thanks was proposed by the General Secretary, Ms Hema Gamage. Election of office bearers for the coming year was the next key event, after which the invitees and members dispersed.





# AAUP AGM 2021 THE GALLERY



# UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

## THE GREENROOM PROJECT



## RENOVATION OF THE GREENROOM OF THE SARACHCHANDRA OPEN – AIR THEATRE

The Sarachchandra Open – Air Theatre, located in the University of Peradeniya is the only theatre of its kind in Sri Lanka. It is popularly known as the 'Wala' among the University community and theatre lovers in Sri Lanka. Built in the early 1950s to match the architectural style of ancient Greek theatres, the 'Wala' was later named in memory of Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra, Sri Lanka's best known playwright, who was also an alumnus and an academic staff member of the University of Peradeniya. The former Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Committee of the AAUP identified it is an urgent need to protect this historical place for the current and future generations of theatre lovers in Sri Lanka. A decision was taken to construct a Greenroom with two separate changing rooms, a lobby, a verandah and a roof with a concrete slab to be used for a floral garden. The estimated cost of the project is around 12 million for a floor area of 2000 ft<sup>2</sup> at the rate of Rs. 6000.00 per ft<sup>2</sup>. All alumni are invited to contribute towards this project.

## THE ONLINE CAREER PORTAL (OCP)



Being part of the University community, AAUP thrives on positively affecting our graduates to improve their chances to find better professional engagements. We have launched an Online Career Portal (OCP), providing a platform for the job seekers of the University to connect and network with job providers from companies, industries, educational institutes and other job providers around the globe. The AAUP members register and create an account. The account holder maintains a completed resume and subscribes for relevant opportunities under-identified themes and tags based on the area of interest and the degree obtained. The opportunities are categorized as a full-time professional, part-time, work from home, consultation, etc. Similarly, the OCP provides user accounts for opportunity providers and allow them to publish available positions through the system. The alumni and the employers will be notified once the customized resumes match the opening. Alumni can manage the history of previously applied resumes separately.



**Members of the Standing committee on University Development**

**Dr V.M.D. Sivakumar (Chairman)**

Dr Asitha Bandaranayake, Dr Bimali Weerakoon, Prof. Chalinda Beneragama, Mr Hubert Kalugampitiya,

Dr Kapila Wijeratne, Mr Prabath Gunathilaka, Prof. Pradeepa Bandaranayake, Prof. Roshan Ragel,

Prof. Siril Wijesundara, Prof. Terrence Madhujith

# GLOBAL FORUM

A platform to connect with alumni worldwide virtually, sharing expertise and supporting internationalization

## Let's talk about COVID-19 vaccines: Truth vs. Myth

As soon as the COVID-19 vaccines were rolled out worldwide, we all started wondering where and how to get accurate information on the vaccines. Many myths about COVID-19 vaccines and their effects had been in circulation, causing some confusion to many in the community. With this in mind, a specially tailored timely webinar was organised by the AAUP on July 3 2021 at 11.30 GMT. The speaker, Prof. Malik Pieris, one of the world's leading clinical and public health virologists, attached to the University of Hong Kong, is an alumnus of the Peradeniya University Medical School 1967 Batch. Prof. Pieris provided valuable information about COVID-19 vaccines and misinformation on vaccines among community.



## Driving madness: Accidents on SL Roads

According to the records of traffic headquarters, road traffic accidents are increasing at an alarming rate in Sri Lanka with a very high number of deaths and critical injuries reported due to road traffic accidents. At this juncture, to talk about the leading contributory factors for road traffic accidents in Sri Lanka, the AAUP invited Dr. Jayalath Edirisinghe, a Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering at the University of Peradeniya with over 25 years of experience in the field of traffic accidents and traffic congestion. Dr. Edirisinghe provides his expertise to a number of organizations, including the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Prevention of Traffic Accidents and is an advisor to the Road Safety Committee of the Central Province. The event was held on September 26, 2021, on a virtual platform.



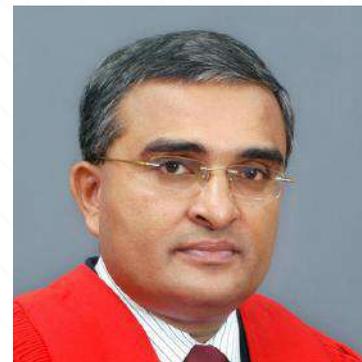
## Controlled release fertilizer for Smart Agriculture

Are you prepared for the future of agriculture? How can we ensure access to a sufficient supply of healthy, diverse, and safe food for a growing global population – while limiting the impact on the environment and coping with climate change? This is one of the key challenges of this century. Exploring the future of agriculture, Prof. Veranja Karunaratne gave a talk on "Controlled release of fertilizer for smart agriculture: A tale of Green Discovery" on November 25, 2021, via Zoom. Prof. Karunaratne is the Vice-Chancellor of the SLINTEC and Prof. in Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya.



## Importance of Vitamin D3 and Immunity for COVID-19

Taking a supplement of Vitamin B3 is an inexpensive and risk-free way to improve resilience for COVID-19. To talk about the important benefits of taking Vitamin B3 to build up immunity against COVID-19, Prof. Tilak Jayalath, Prof. of Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Peradeniya was invited. Prof. Jayalath is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London and Edinburgh. He has been awarded fellowships of American College of Physicians and Ceylon College of Physicians. He was the President of Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine in 2020 and has held several key positions in both local and international organizations.



### Members of the Standing committee on Alumni clubs and Reunions

**Dr Anura Dantanarayana (Chairman)**

Dr S. Bothota, Eng. Chandrasiri Liyanage, Mr Nalin Jayatissa, Eng. Sarath Senevirathne,

Dr Jayalath Edirisinghe, Mr Pathirage Perera, Mr H.A. Ariyaratne

SPARK ENGAGEMENT WITH A VIRTUAL EVENT PLATFORM

## To Serve Better

### STORIES OF ALUMNI COMMITTED MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

#### ***Hats off to the AAUP Standing Committee on Continuing Education & Extension Education for arranging three online programs for the AAUP membership***



During the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, members of the Standing Committee made the best use of Zoom technology to bring IELTS classes, French language classes and Tamil Language classes to the laptops of its membership.

Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardena stepped in and volunteered to conduct IELTS classes as always, this time from Singapore, and assisted by her daughter

Arundathi. Eighteen young graduates /IELTS aspirants joined the program to improve their scores to enter overseas universities. Three parallel classes were held weekly from July to September 2021. Judging

from the progress of IELTS students, the need to improve their knowledge of English grammar became apparent. As a remedy, setting

up an English Language & IELTS Corner comprising textbooks and Examination papers in the AAUP office is in the pipeline. The dedication

and commitment of Mrs. Gunawardena and Arundathi are admired and appreciated by all participants and the AAUP. The Director Alliance

Francaise Kandy (AFK) offered an especially designed French language course to the AAUP to arouse the interest of academics intending to

form research links with European countries. The 10 - week - long course conducted by a teacher in France began on the 9th of July with a few

senior academics. The Director AFK is keen to provide opportunities to the university community, the AAUP, staff and students to learn French,

the global language next to English.

The Committee organized Tamil Language classes for the benefit of the University community, under the slogan 'Know Your Second National

Language'. A former Director of Education in the Tamil Language is teaching the course whose objective is to enable communication in

Tamil; impart reading and speaking skills. For the 20 staff members who joined, three parallel classes are held weekly for 3- months. Once, the present series of classes end, another cycle would begin to meet the

demand.



#### **Members of the Standing committee on Continuuos Education and Extension Education**

##### **Eng. Sarath Senevirathne (Chairman)**

Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardane, Prof. Ranjini Obeysekara, Prof. Sarath Edirisinghe

Ms. Hema Gamage, Prof. Savitri Kumar, Mrs. Sujatha Karunaratne

S.

# WELFARE ACTIVITIES

## Studentships given during 2021/2022

Name of Donor	No. of Studentships	LKR/Student/Year
Canberra Chapter	14	36,000.00
Ottawa Chapter	20	36,000.00
New South Wales Chapter	9	12,000.00
Emeritus Prof. Savitri Kumar Studentship	1	36,000.00
Mr. Y.A Piyatissa Studentship	1	36,000.00
Mr. & Mrs. Norman & Matilda Abeyrathna and Anula Malini Abeyrathna Studentship	1	36,000.00
Mr. Jehan Sumedha Piyasena Studentship	1	36,000.00
Mr. Ramasamy Manoharan Memorial Studentship	1	60,000.00
Prof. G.P. Wannigama Memorial Studentship	1	24,000.00
AAUP Studentship	2	36,000.00

## Total number of Studentships given by foreign chapters since 2019

FOREIGN CHAPTER	CONTRIBUTION –NUMBER OF STUDENTS			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Canberra Chapter	17 LKR. 204,000	6 LKR. 216,000	14 LKR. 504,000	26 LKR. 936,000
Victoria Chapter		18 LKR. 648,000		
Ottawa Chapter	29 LKR.348,00	10 LKR.360,000	20 LKR. 720,000	25 LKR 900,000
Western Australia Chapter		6 LKR. 216,000		7 LKR 252,000
New South Wales Chapter	9	9 LKR. 324,000	9 LKR. 324,000	9 LKR 216,000
Other donors	11	7	8	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>72</b>

## DONATIONS

- 1) Rs. 25,000 was donated to the Faculty of Dental Science as per the donor's request.
- 2) Rs. 10,000 worth face masks were purchased and distributed to all the faculties.
- 3) Rs. 15,000 was donated to cover the meal expenses of covid-19 positive students at the COVID Intermediate Care Centre at Mahakanda.
- 4) The salary of the Management Assistant at the special needs resource centre (SNRC) at the UoP and Brail Reading support.

Members of the Standing committee on Student Welfare

Dr Anoja Wanigasekara (Chairperson)

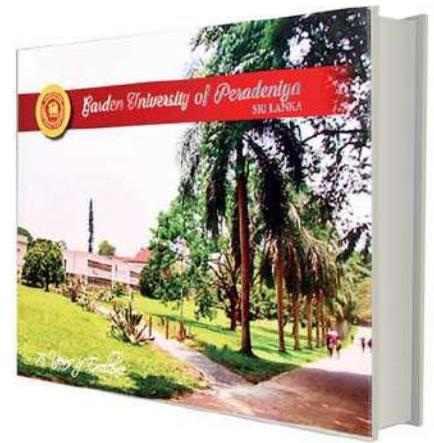
Prof. Jayanthi Edirisinghe, Prof. Chantha Jayawardhana, Ms Hema Gamage

Prof. Amalka Pinidiyaarachchi, Dr Samantha Jagoda, Ms Sujatha Karunaratne



## Sir Ivor Jennings Endowment Fund

The Sir Ivor Jennings Endowment Fund was initiated with the income received from the sales of the coffee table book "Garden University of Peradeniya - Sri Lanka". This book, authored by Mr SACM Zuhyle and Dr RMK Ratnayake, includes photographs and informative write-ups on all halls of residence, faculties, places of worship and other places of scenic beauty of the University.



**"A literary effort to Rekindle Peradeniya University Review: Coffee Table Book; Garden University of Peradeniya" - Daily Mirror**

## Mental Health Program for Undergraduates

We proposed a counselling service to support students with mental health problems through the University Health Centre in collaboration with the Canberra Chapter of AAUP. With the increased interest in higher education and the expansion of the higher education sector, more students seek university education. Once on campus, the many challenges they face lead to mental health problems expressed as anxiety, stress, depression, aggressiveness, poor performance at examinations, dropping out of programs, and even self-harm. As the largest residential campus, the prevalence of such incidents at Peradeniya may be higher than in any other university. Recently, members of the Canberra Chapter highlighted the urgent need for establishing a counselling service for mental health problems at the Health Centre. Obtaining funds for facilities required and recruitment of trained mental health Counsellors on a part-time basis are being worked out.

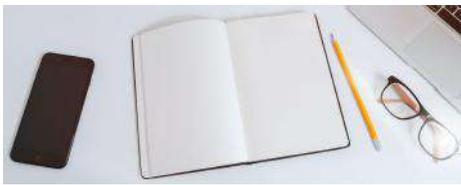
## Dreamers are achievers

We started a series of workshops titled "Shaping the Future" to provide career guidance, mentoring, etc., for university undergraduates under the Sir Ivor Jennings Endowment fund. On October 13, 2021, the inauguration session was held at 6:00 PM via an online zoom platform. The session was inaugurated with a welcome address by the President, Prof. Pradeepa Bandaranayake. Dr V Sivakumar, the session chair, introduced the title of the speech as "Dreamers are achievers" and the speaker Dr Jayalath Edirisinghe, a senior lecturer in Civil Engineering. He highlighted the importance of dreaming big to achieve higher goals and the importance of self-belief, commitment and dedication for any given task and the self-resilience for own development. He emphasized how lucky these undergraduates were to have an opportunity to enter the University of Peradeniya. He highlighted the opportunities available within the University set up to meet with different budding professionals and extracurricular activities while learning. To Laugh, Live and Love while Learning at Lecture rooms, Laboratories and Library and opportunities available for leisure at Open-air theatre, playgrounds, gymnasium, swimming pool, etc., were highlighted using many stories and examples. There was a Q & A session at the end, and Prof. Amalka Pinidiyaarachchi wrapped up the session by proposing the vote of thanks and inviting students to join the mentoring sessions organized by AAUP for their benefits and career development. The event was well attended with about 200 students' participation and was streamed live on Youtube

**Members of the Standing committee on Public Relations & Alumni Welfare**

**Col. Dr. Udula Krishnarathne (Chairperson)**

Mr. Jagath Dahanayake, Dr Anura Danthanarayana, Ms Hema Gamage, Prof. Savitri Kumar, Dr Hemali Nandalal, Prof. Chandani Perera, Eng. Sarath Seneviratne, Dr Nirmali de Silva, Prof. Swarna Wimalasiri, Mrs Chandra Weerawardena



# IMPORTANT MEETINGS

## MEETING WITH THE NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR

A meeting was held with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 4.30 p.m to discuss the AAUP activities. At the outset, the President presented the progress made by the AAUP over the years. During the discussion, four special requests were made to the Vice-Chancellor: (i) to allocate a place within the University for the proposed concept store (ii) to identify an assistant registrar to liaise with the AAUP and University administration, (iii) to give more prominence and visibility to the AAUP within the University (Eg. website, alumni representation at the convocation) and (iv) to provide access to the university guest house for the AAUP members. The Vice-Chancellor has expressed his willingness to support future activities organised by the AAUP.

## MEETING WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL

A meeting was held upon a request made by Prof. J.B. Ekanayake, the Director of the University Research Council, on October 22, 2021 at 2 pm via Zoom to discuss how the AAUP and chapters could help to enhance the research portfolio of the University of Peradeniya. Representing AAUP, the President, general secretary, and the treasurer attended the meeting. Prof. Ekanayake requested to initiate a discussion with the AAUP Ex-Co to seek the AAUP support for the following activities: to create a research fund maintained by AAUP; to invite AAUP to become a part of multidisciplinary research activities of the University; to assist UOP researchers in applying for research grants and to create a database with experts who are willing to evaluate grant applications and final reports.

## MEETING WITH THE INTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW (IIR) TEAM

The President and the Secretary met the IIR Team on March 14, 2022. The President presented the AAUP activities highlighting the presence of a well-supportive alumni association with locally and internationally reputed alumni in influential positions in the society.

## MEETING WITH THE NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR

The president and the secretary attended a meeting convened by Director/Student Support Services and Welfare, Prof. Manoji Pathirage to discuss the AAUP Proposal on Establishing a mental health counselling services for undergraduates. The idea was proposed by the Canberra Chapter of the AAUP and the proposal was developed by the Student Welfare Committee of the AAUP in collaboration with the Canberra chapter and the Health Centre of the University and submitted to the Vice-Chancellor. The meeting was held on 18.03.2022 at Senate Room and Via Zoom and the members involved in establishing the "Counselling and Psychological Support Unit", of the University also attended the meeting.

## PRESIDENT'S DIARY

The President participated in the Colombo Chapter Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on an online platform.

The President attended the orientation program for the new entrants of the Faculty of Arts held online.

Both the President and the Secretary had participated at the AGM of the Peradeniya Medical School Alumni Association (PeMSAA).

The President attended the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Veterinary Alumni Association (VAAP) held on 19th March 2022 as a special invitee and delivered a speech.

### **Members of the Standing committee on Elections & Constitution**

#### **Mr K.A.H. Kalugampitiya (Chairman)**

Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardane, Ms. Hema Gamage, Mr. Sarath Samarasinghe, Mr. Piyadasa Wijekoon, Mr. Piyatilake Muthugama

# A RETAIL MERCHANDISE BRAND FOR UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

## The Shop for Authentic Pera Merchandise



### PERA concept store: signing of the agreement

Store Solutions to fit all your Pera nostalgia frenzy souvenir needs!  
Online shopping will be available

**Members of the Standing committee on Finance**  
**Prof. Amalka Pinidiyaarachchi (Chairperson)**

Dr Jayalath Edirisinghe, Prof. Pradeepa Bandaranayake, Eng. Sarath Seneviratne, Mr Ravi Mulleriyawa,  
Eng. Sisira Piyaratne, Mr Nalin Jayatissa, Prof. S.P. Nissanka, Dr Sunishka Ponnampereuma

## Chapter news

The AAUP has made provision to establish regional chapters in any geographic area except the Central Province of Sri Lanka. The established local chapters are:

Colombo Chapter  
Ruhuna Chapter  
Wayamba Chapter  
Northern Chapter

The AAUP is keen to establish foreign chapters. The presently established foreign chapters are:

Western Australia Chapter  
Victoria Chapter  
Canberra Chapter  
New South Wales Chapter  
Ottawa Chapter  
Toronto Chapter  
New Zealand Chapter

# Peradeniya Medical School Alumni Association PeMSAA

*The PeMSAA 20201/2022 Council commenced its activities in April 2021 under the leadership of newly elected president Prof. Thushara Kudagammana with the new council. The new council took over PeMSAA immediately after the 15th International Medical Congress of PeMSAA which was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at Hotel Grand Kandyan, Kandy and was a great success.*



*15th International Medical Congress of PeMSAA*



*Students participating in the Shramadana as part of the Faculty Beautification project*

*Activities of the PeMSAA are progressing under three main themes over the year 2021 and 2022; 1. Activities to help graduate a doctor who is humane, confident, has reached their full potential and who loves the faculty, 2. Infrastructure development and 3. activities aimed at establishing PeMSAA as a powerful central organization. PeMSAA has completed a series of lectures - the "PeMSAA Evening Talks" by Alumni in different fields of medicine to supplement and enhance their learning. Three talks per week were organized and the series was a great success among the students with the participation of 400 - 500 students and enthusiastic discussion sessions. This series was followed by "Case-Based Discussions" currently held once a week. PeMSAA expresses its sincere gratitude to the academics and clinicians who actively contributed to the PeMSAA teaching sessions. Over 40 academic lectures and discussions have been delivered during the past six months. The development of soft skills among the students and the members is a priority of PeMSAA. We have organized a session on smart attire and another on learning skills for medical students and students in their advanced level classes.*

*PeMSAA provides continuous support for faculty beautification activities by developing and maintaining its physical environment to promote learning. Under this program, many areas of the faculty have been redesigned and improved. A labourer is being employed to help keep the faculty clean.*

*PeMSAA has worked closely with other regional clinical societies and overseas chapters. We have started Regional Clinical Meetings to disseminate updated clinical knowledge to the regional hospitals under "Reaching out and Sharing knowledge & strengthening bonds".*

*PeMSAA also offers scholarships and bursaries to students over their academic careers. We have also recently started a 'Student Crisis Fund' to provide help during acute personal crises.*

*Over the coming year, we plan to continue these ongoing programs and engage in some community-level activities. We also plan to participate actively in the University Alumni activities through the AAUP. We look forward to an active and productive partnership with the AAUP in the future.*

# UPSAA UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA SCIENCE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



The UPSAA AGM was held on December 12, 2021 under the Presidency of Prof. Swarna Wimalasiri.



PROF. H.M.D.R. HERATH DELIVERED A LECTURE ON "HISTORY OF UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA" ON JANUARY 27, 2022

THE UPSAA PROVIDED 45 (FORTY-FIVE) CUSHIONED (FABRIC) LECTURE-CHAIRS WITH STEEL FRAMED MAHOGANY WRITING PADS WORTH OF RS. 445,500/- TO THE NEW SEMINAR ROOM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY FROM THE FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, NSW (PUAAN).

THE UPSAA PROVIDED 9 (NINE) LOCKERS WITH 15 CUBICLES WORTH OF RS. 326, 250/- TO THE FACULTY FROM THE FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, NSW (PUAAN).

RAISED TOTAL AMOUNT OF RS. 188,415.65 FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE COVID19 INTERMEDIATE CARE CENTER OF UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA AND DONATED FOLLOWING ITEMS WORTH OF RS. 60,299/- FOR THE COVID19 INTERMEDIATE CARE CENTER OF UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA ON THE REQUEST OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA.

- GAS COOKER
- WATER DISPENSER
- TWO HAND DRIERS
- ALARM CLOCK



The 1976 Science batch sponsored a three million research grant in 2021. The recipient is a young, dynamic researcher, Dr Chani Perera attached to the Department of Physics. She and her team proposed a project which aims to synthesize highly efficient, low-cost, recyclable and environmentally friendly magnetically modified nono-adsorbent composite that could be used to treat contaminated wastewater or groundwater sources. The 1976 batch has pledged to continue funding research in the future on regular basis.



**FOUNDER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
VETERINARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF PERADENIYA  
2019/2020**



Roshan Galappathige  
071 0874 448

**Seated Left to Right : Dr. R.A.C. Rabel, Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi, Dr. B.M.A.O. Perera, Dr. R.M.P.H. Dassanayake, Dr. D.M.S. Munasinghe, Dr. I.D. Silva, Dr. R.M.C. Deshapriya**

**Standing Left to Right : Dr. D.D.N. de Silva, Dr. D.S. Kodikara, Dr. M.D.N. Jayaweera, Dr. N.M.T. Anupama, Dr. A.W. Kalupahana, Prof. Mangala Gunatilake**

**Absent : Dr. Sumith Wanniarachchi, Dr. D.M.A.P. Dissanayake, Dr. W.A.D.N.C. Wickramasinghe, Prof. Sivali Ranawana, Dr. Sugath Pemachandra, Dr. D.J. Weilgama, Dr. R. Hettiarachchi, Prof. P.A.B.D. Alexander**

## **INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE VETERINARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF PERADENIYA (VAAP)**

The Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya (VAAP) was founded at its Inaugural Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019, with the broad objective of encouraging, fostering and promoting a close relationship between the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science and its alumni, and also among the alumni themselves. The meeting was presided over by the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. D.M.S. Munasinghe, the Patron of VAAP, and the Founder Executive Committee (Ex-Co) was elected with Air Commodore (Retd) Dr. R.M.P.H. Dassanayake as the Founder President. The Ex-Co undertook several important activities, including a membership drive and establishing two funds to assist students at the Faculty. The first was a 'Needy Students Fund' with initial donations being made by several members of the Ex-Co. The award of a scholarship has already been made to a student from the first year batch of 2018/2019, who was selected by a Faculty committee. The second fund was a 'COVID Emergency Assistance Fund', established when the COVID-19 crisis caused a range of problems to both staff and students at the Faculty,



The first Annual General Meeting and Induction Ceremony were held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the Institute of Continuing Education in Animal Production and Health, Gannoruwa. The Chief Guest was Prof. Upul Dissanayaka, the then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya. The Guest of Honour was Prof. Siril Wijesundara, the then President of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya. The second Ex-Co was elected at this event, with Dr. Oswin Perera being inducted as the President.

Our membership now stands at close to 200, and we appeal to all our Alumni to join us and support the Faculty in its efforts to produce veterinary graduates that we can all be proud of. Please visit our website at <https://vaap.lk/> for further information, including the specific objectives, Articles of Association, composition of the current Ex-Co, and application form for membership.

# PERADENIYA IN BRIEF

## COVID Intermediate Care Centre at Mahakanda

With the escalating number of infections of COVID-19 within the university community and the healthcare facilities dwindling in Kandy area, the need for intermediate care centre to treat and take care of patients arose. In this backdrop, the University of Peradeniya embarked on establishing a Covid Intermediate Care Centre in May 2021 to cater to the infected staff, students, and their immediate family members of the University under the directions of the COVID Management Committee of the University.



## Opening of University Athletic & Hockey Pavilion

The athletic and hockey pavilion complex was opened on July 8, 2021, under the patronage of the former VC, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake. This stadium and its grounds were built for the University's undergraduates and sports students of the Central Province. The stadium's seating capacity is around 200 and there are facilities for sportsmen and women.



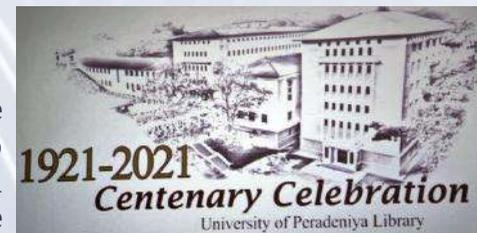
## Prof M D Lamawansa assumed duties as the Vice-Chancellor

Prof. M D Lamawansa, the former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, assumed duties as the Vice-Chancellor on August 4 2021. He was the Professor of Surgery and the former Ambassador for the Russian Federation. He was also the founding Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the Wayamba University, and a consultant general surgeon at the Peradeniya Teaching Hospital.



## This year Peradeniya Library system marks its 100th anniversary

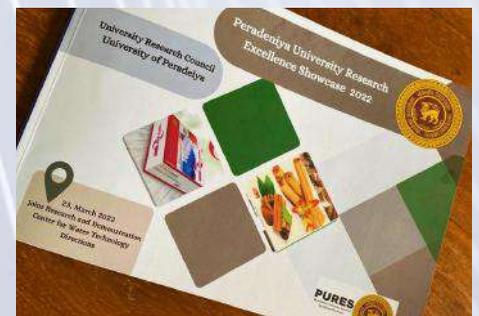
The library of Peradeniya University originated in 1921 as the library of the Ceylon University College. Then it was shifted to Peradeniya in 1952 and was moved to the present premises in 1960. To mark the anniversary, a new logo was unveiled under the theme "*The unpatrolled Repository of Knowledge at the Centre of Excellence – past and present.*"



The oldest and the largest University library in Sri Lanka

## Peradeniya University Research Excellence Showcase (PURES)

The PURES 2022 was held as an hybrid event at the Research and Demonstration Centre for Water Technology on March 23, 2022 providing an opportunity to the researchers working on nationally and internationally important projects to showcase their research outputs and also to discuss about the commitment of the University to supporting researchers.



## Times Higher Education World Ranking - 2022



The University of Peradeniya has been ranked among the world's top 500 Universities for the 3rd consecutive year and number one university in Sri Lanka according to Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking 2022. In 2022, more than 1600 universities spread among nearly 100 countries and territories. The THE ranking takes core areas: teaching, research, citations, industry income & international outlook into consideration in ranking universities.



THE 82ND CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA WAS HELD UNDER STRICT HEALTH GUIDELINES FROM FEBRUARY 22 TO 24 AT THE CAMPUS GYMNASIUM. MORE THAN 3500 GRADUATES RECEIVED THEIR QUALIFICATIONS. THE CONVOCATION WAS PRESIDED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PROF. M. D. LAMAWANSA, DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. S. MADUJITH AND THE DEANS OF THE FACULTIES.

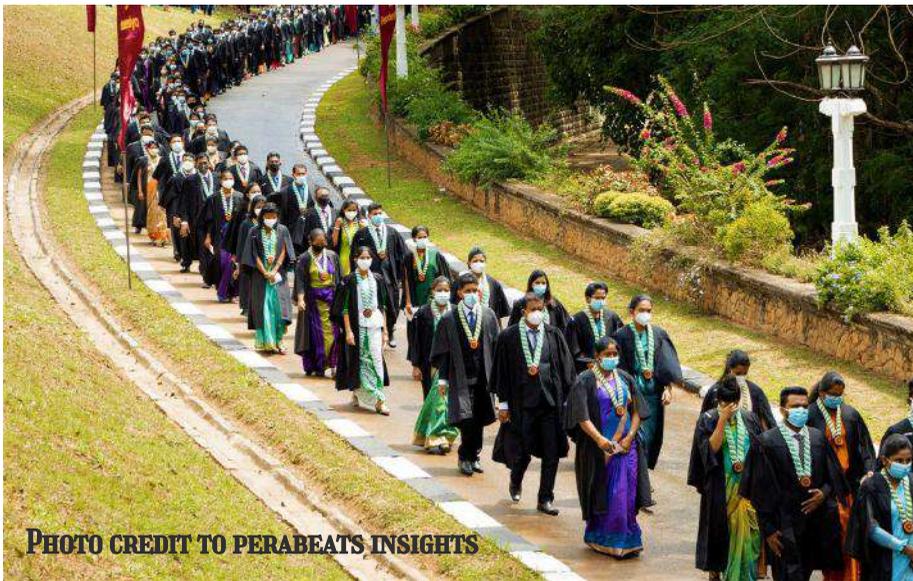
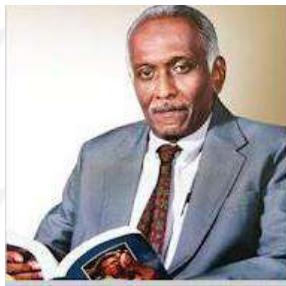


PHOTO CREDIT TO PERABEATS INSIGHTS



**PROFESSOR C.L.V. JAYATHILAKA**

THE AAUP EXPRESSES ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF PROF. C.L.V. JAYATHILAKA, A FORMER VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY. PROF. JAYATHILAKA PASSED AWAY ON AUGUST 31, 2021. HE SERVED IN THE CAPACITY OF DEAN OF THE FACULTIES OF ENGINEERING, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA, VICE-CHANCELLOR AT THE WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMISSION, AND HAD CONTRIBUTED HIS SERVICES IMMENSELY TO THE COUNTRY.



**Members of the sub-committee on Memberships & Membership Drive**  
**Dr Jayalath Edirisinghe (Chairman)**

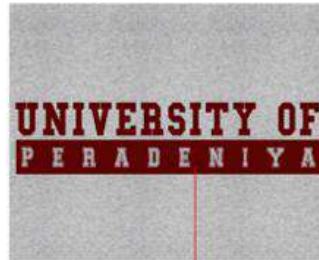
Dr Anura Danthanarayana, Prof. Amalka Pinidiyarachchi, Mr. Chandrasiri, Mr. Sisira Priyaratne

# PERA

## OFFICIAL MEMORABILIA

These are official products made in collaboration with the Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya to help raise funds for the betterment of student lives

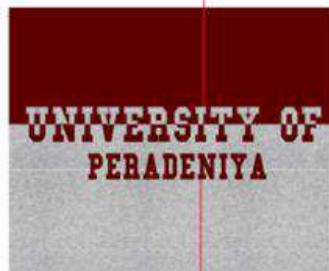
08



Print



10



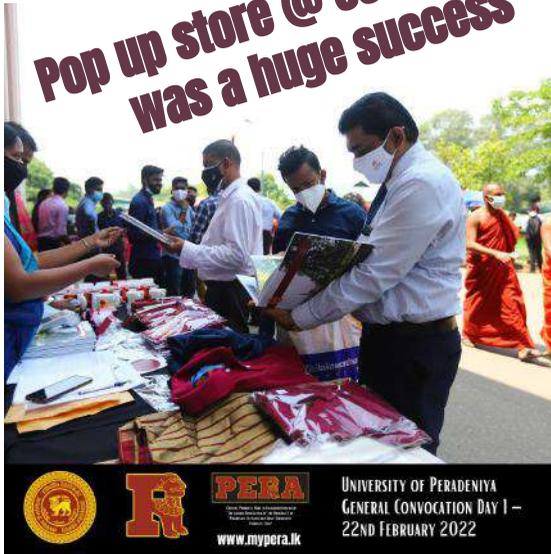
Applique

Print



[www.mypera.lk](http://www.mypera.lk)

**Pop up store @ convocation was a huge success**



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
GENERAL CONVOCATION DAY 1 –  
22ND FEBRUARY 2022



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
GENERAL CONVOCATION DAY 2 –  
23RD FEBRUARY 2022



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
GENERAL CONVOCATION DAY 3 –  
24TH FEBRUARY 2022

### WHAT ARE THE IMPLICIT ADVANTAGES OF HAVING A UNIVERSITY BRAND ?

- Create a positive and professional image
- Increase brand recognition in another facet of the institutes
- Contribute to a positive student culture through gift giving and sharing
- Website to be build as a platform where students can express themselves with creative input

Rupika Rajakaruna  
Editor

