



# AAUP NewsLetter

*News update of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya*

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[www.aaupsl.org](http://www.aaupsl.org)

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## Message from the President

The objectives of the AAUP laid down in the Constitution that was drafted in 1987, include "to encourage, foster and promote close relations between the University and its alumni and among the alumni themselves"; "to promote in the alumni body an interest in the affairs and the well being of the University" and "to serve as a medium through which alumni may support and advance the pursuit of academic excellence in the University". The AAUP this year will endeavor to carry out programs to realize some of these objectives.

The AAUP Newsletter and the AAUP web site will be the medium through which the general membership will be made aware of AAUP programs for the coming year. AAUP activities are being planned to create an awareness of new developments at the UoP and its Faculties among its alumni, to provide members and other alumni an opportunity to assist and participate in some of the activities of the UoP, to make available opportunities for alumni to renew their ties with the UoP and other alumni, and to enlist new members to the AAUP. Some programs will try to create an appreciation among current undergraduates of the facilities and academic programs that are freely available at the UoP and are often taken for granted. Mr. S. C. Maydunne, our Chief Guest at the AGM this year, made an eloquent appeal to our alumni, to recall with gratitude the gift of free education received by all alumni during the memorable years spent at this serene and beautiful campus of the University of Peradeniya

Alumni members who wish to participate in particular programs are kindly requested to contact the coordinator of the program whose name, e-mail address and telephone number will be provided in the AAUP Newsletter. As President of the AAUP this year I appeal to our members and other alumni to participate in our activities.

**Savitri Kumar**





## Office Bearers 2007/08

The following members were elected office bearers of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya for the term 2007/08 at the Annual General Meeting held on March 25, 2007 at the Arts Theatre, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya.

<b>President</b>	Prof. Savitri Kumar
<b>General Secretary</b>	Ms. Hema Gamage
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Dr. Anula Kariyawasam, Prof. T. Wijewardena, Prof. Chandani Perera, Ms. Vagdevi Fernando, Mr. Mahinda Senanayake
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Dr. Thushari Hewapathirana, Ms. S. M. C. Himali
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr. R. M.P. B. Rathnayake
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Mr. Sarath Seneviratne
<b>Editor</b>	Ms. Lalitha Gunawardena
<b>Committee Members</b>	Prof. S. A. Kulasooriya, Dr. Anura P. Dantanarayana, Mr. Ananda Dharmaratne, Mr. Manoj Alawathukotuwa, Dr. Jayampathi Dissanayake, Mr. B. G. Ranathunga, Ms. Arosha Perera, Mr. Sunil Guruge, Ms. Ashoka Dissanayake

## An Event to Remember

The Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP) was held at the Arts Theatre, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya on 25.03.2007. The Chief Guest on the occasion was the former Auditor General, Mr. S.C. Mayadunne, the Guest of Honour, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. H. Abeygunawardena and the Special Invitee, the former Vice Chancellor Prof. Kapila Goonesekara.

It was undoubtedly a memorable event on account of two very special factors:

The Association had (I) invited as Chief Guest. Mr. S. C. Mayadunne, a respected alumnus of the University held in high esteem by the Public as well as the Private Sector,

(II) felicitated the alumni who had formed the Cast and Crew of Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra's original production of Maname in 1956.

The Chief Guest, Mr. S. C. Mayadunne, in his address to the gathering expressed his pleasure at being invited to speak at his alma mater on such a special occasion. He made use of the opportunity to reflect on the merits of the Free Education System. He remarked that coming as he did from a less privileged remote village he could not have achieved

what he had if not for the Free Education System. He said that he was greatly indebted to the country for his higher education; a debt he had endeavored to repay through diligence and hard work in the service of the nation.

The term "Free Education" in his opinion is in a sense, a misnomer in that the cost is ultimately borne by the general public. The products of the system have therefore on graduation, a duty and an obligation to play an adequate role in the development of the country.

Mr. Mayadunne pointed out that the alumni of the UoP are the cream of society, holding key positions in the public as well as the private sector. As products of the Free Education System, the alumni have a duty to ensure that the country and its resources are administered for the benefit of the public. Mr. Mayadunne earnestly exhorted the alumni in the public and the private sectors to do their best to minimize corruption, negligence and waste thus ensuring transparency and good governance in the country.



The original production of Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra's 'Maname' in 1956 had an enormous impact on the cultural as well as social life of this country. Nearly fifty years have passed yet Maname continues to wield its influence. The cast and the crew of the original production were drawn from the University Community hence they are alumni of the Association. The AAUP expressed its appreciation of the original cast and crew by felicitating them at the Annual General Meeting.

A serious attempt was made to trace the whereabouts of the original cast and crew in order to felicitate them in person. The producer Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra and some members of the cast and crew including Trilicia Gunawardena (princess Maname) Ben Sirimanne (Prince Maname) Edmund Wijesingha (Veddah king) Trixie de Silva, Swarna Mahipala, Hemapala Wijewardena, Karunadasa Gunaratne, Kithsiri Amaratunga, Somaratne Edirisinghe and Charles Silva Gunasingha

are not with us any longer. A two-minute period of silence was observed as a mark of respect and appreciation.

Several members of the cast and crew including Hemamali Gunasingha, Charmon Saparamadu, H. L. Seneviratne and Siri Gunasingha are residents of foreign countries, and could not be invited to be present at the felicitation Ceremony. Yet others including V. K. P. Weerasingha, M. B. Adhikaram, H. M. D. B. Herath, Daya Jayasundara could not be contacted.

The following members were present and were felicitated in person:

Lionel Fernando (Cast-veddah), Nanda Abeywickrama (Chorus), Paster Peiris (Chorus), Indrani Wijesighe (Chorus), D.H. Sathischandra (Chorus), Ramya Jayawickrama (Orchestra), Wimaladharma Diyasena (Crew), Arthur Silva (President of the Sinhala Drama Society).

The Association expressed its sincere apologies crew.

## Vice Chancellor at the AGM

Professor H. Abeygunawardena, Vice Chancellor, UoP, appealed to the AAUP to help UoP in its planning, development and maintenance programs. He said that major investments and efforts will be made to promote UoP as the most comprehensive University in Sri Lanka, with solid undergraduate and postgraduate training programs. Strategies are being developed to

attract the most talented A/L qualifiers who at present, prefer to seek entrance to Colombo based Universities which have access to many opportunities offered by the metropolitan Colombo environment. Prof. Abeygunawardena also appealed to the alumni to get involved in providing a quality environment at UoP to improve facilities for accommodation, sports and health.

## News from AAUP Chapters

### AAUP Colombo Chapter

The office bearers elected for 2007/08 are Mr. D. P. Mendis (President), Mr. Godwin Perera (Secretary), Mr. G. Gnanaratne (Treasurer) and Mr. C. Mayadunne

(Coordinator). The Colombo Chapter has donated Studentships for needy students and continues to provide spectacles for undergraduates at UoP.

## NEW at the Faculty of Science

B. Sc. General Degree students now have an opportunity to add on one year to their academic program and obtain a four-year B. Sc. degree in Applied Science. Candidates for the new degree course are selected at the end of the third year. The new fourth year Courses have been designed to improve skills that enhance the employability of science graduates

and provide training in industry related Courses. An integral part of the new degree is a four months internship in industry where students work in an industrial environment. AAUP members interested in providing internship opportunities to our students are kindly requested to contact [nskumar@pdn.ac.lk](mailto:nskumar@pdn.ac.lk).



## Art Gallery and Museum Project at UoP

The Art Gallery and Museum project was initiated by the AAUP under the leadership of Prof. Ashley Halpe to house the collection of invaluable paintings, books, and writings, bequeathed by Mr. Ian Goonatilleke, former Librarian of UoP. Mr. Ashley de Vos has provided the architectural drawings and designs for this project free of charge. The AAUP collected Rs. 4 million from the Peradeniya alumni and well wishers for the project.

The project is now administered by the Board of Trustees chaired by the Vice Chancellor of the UoP. The other members of the Trust appointed by the Council of the UoP are the President/AAUP, Prof. K.N.O. Dharmadasa, Prof. Ashley Halpe, Dr. Ranjini Obeysekere, Mr. Tissa Jayatilake, Mr. Arun Tampoe, Mr. Mohan Samaranayake, the Librarian UoP, Registrar UoP, Bursar UoP and Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

## Activities for 2007/8

### June

AAUP Newsletter – contact: Ms. Lalitha Gunawardena ([jagunda@gmail.com](mailto:jagunda@gmail.com)) & Dr. Thushari Hewapathirana ([thusharih@hotmail.com](mailto:thusharih@hotmail.com)). "AlumNite" (a variety show) contact: [vagdevi\\_fernando@yahoo.com](mailto:vagdevi_fernando@yahoo.com), [nskumar@pdn.ac.lk](mailto:nskumar@pdn.ac.lk)

### July

Spoken Tamil classes (9 months) contact: [hagamage@yahoo.com](mailto:hagamage@yahoo.com)

### August

International Film Festival – contact: [tashiya28@yahoo.com](mailto:tashiya28@yahoo.com)  
AAUP Annual Trip – contact: [ananda@kulasooraya.com](mailto:ananda@kulasooraya.com)

### September

"Counseling skills for school teachers". One day workshop contact: [chandanip@pdn.ac.lk](mailto:chandanip@pdn.ac.lk)

### October

Counseling Skills for University Teachers – contact: [cgu@pdn.ac.lk](mailto:cgu@pdn.ac.lk)  
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## AAUP Membership Register

Please visit the AAUP web site [www.aaupsl.org](http://www.aaupsl.org) and check the membership list. For errors, omissions, amendments and

additions (anecdotes, alumni achievements, photos) contact the webmaster [aaupsl@gmail.com](mailto:aaupsl@gmail.com).

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