



AAUP NEWSLETTER

News update of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya

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March 2014/2015

Message from the President of the AAUP – Dr. Jayalath Edirisinghe



It is with great pleasure that I write this message to the newsletter of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP) on the occasion of the 26th AGM. I strongly consider it an honour and privilege to have been given an opportunity to serve as the President of the Alumni Association of the prestigious

University of Peradeniya. While thanking the membership for giving me this opportunity, I would like to remind each and every graduate of the University of Peradeniya that, membership of the AAUP is a way to re connect with fellow Alumni worldwide and help make a positive difference to the alma mater.

The Alumni Association of The University of Peradeniya has assisted the University community in numerous ways. Scholarships and studentships for bright as well as needy undergraduates, annual get-togethers, annual trips and other opportunities for the members to meet and enjoy fellowship with their colleagues, regular continuing education programs such as IELTS, English Language and writing skills are some of the activities organized in the recent past to help members of the University community.

In addition, the AAUP, with the generous assistance of its members, in Sri Lanka and abroad, has been able to donate equipment to the University Health Centre, and the Special Needs Centre, books for the Department of Management and a few basic needs such as computers, mosquito nets and mirrors to student hostels.

In compliance with a request from the Deans of some of the Faculties, the AAUP is planning to organize activities and programs to improve the soft skills of undergraduates. This program will include talks by invited scholars, competitions on public speaking

among undergraduates, debates etc. Facilitation of activities of this nature will require a fully equipped Language Laboratory accessible to all undergraduates at the University of Peradeniya. Therefore, the AAUP is interested in investigating the possibility of seeking assistance from its members to set up a central Language Lab to serve undergraduates of all the Faculties in the UOP.

I am pleased to announce that the Art Gallery, initiated by the AAUP, is now open and functioning.

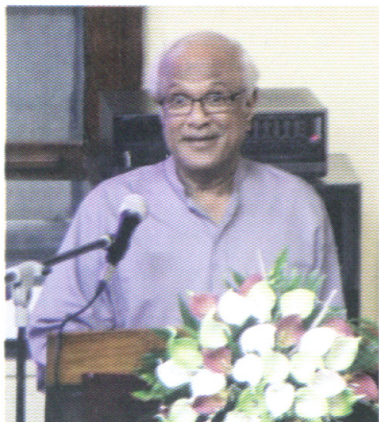
Alumni of the University of the Peradeniya share a common bond: a sense of pride and loyalty to their alma mater. As the president, I would like to invite non-members to become members, join in the regular activities of the Association, enjoy fellowship, and help the UOP maintain its reputation as a prestigious center of higher learning.

EXCO of the AAUP- 2014/15

PRESIDENT: Dr. Jayalath Edirisinghe, **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:** Prof. Savitri Kumar, **GENERAL SECRETARY:** Prof. Swarna Wimalasiri, **TREASURER:** Mrs. Asoka Dissanayaka, **VICE PRESIDENTS:** Dr. A.P. Danthanarayane, Dr. Rupika Rajakaruna, Prof. Chandani Perera, Dr. Renuka Rathnayake, Dr. J. Gunathileke, **EDITOR:** Mrs. Lalitha Gunwardena, **ASST. SECRETARIES:** Dr. Hemali Nandalal, Dr. P.C.G. Bandaranayake, **ASST. TREASURER:** Mr. Ashvin Wickramasooriya,

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Excerpts from the talk given by Mr. Tissa Jayatilaka, Chief Guest at the 25th Annual General meeting of the University of Peradeniya [AAUP].



.....Lilani and I consider our years spent in 'Peradeniya' (I refer here to the institution as much as to its ambience) among the most enriching and enjoyable of our lives to-date. Each time we return to these idyllic surroundings, we re-live our warm and fond memories of times spent by the banks of the Mahaweli. We both had the good fortune to also be attached to the academic staff for a while. As I face the audience before me today, I recognize many a familiar face and my mind's eye instantly transports me to certain shared pleasures of 'time past'. And I know that these memories will continue to sustain me through good times and bad, as they have done in the past, until the end of my days.

From the earliest days, while nursing dreams of going through the portals of Peradeniya's 'green and pleasant' seat of learning, I wanted my sojourn there to be memorable. I wanted to meet and interact with intelligent and inspiring men and women with vision. My desire was not to spend four years merely acquiring book knowledge but to get to know the fundamentals of existence. I also yearned to be taught by Peradeniya's learned men and women (especially the legendary eccentrics amongst them) about whom the stories I had heard from my family elders, and friends who preceded me at Peradeniya were legion. I had been told that a university was a place where mind meets mind and wondered whether this was really the case.

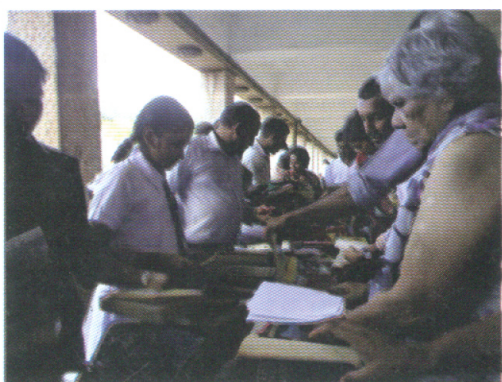
My expectations of Peradeniya were great. And, I am delighted to say that, on the whole, Peradeniya lived up to them. Virtually all of my teachers and other academics there in my time were exceptional men and women. We truly sat at the feet of giants. Being an excellent residential university, Peradeniya afforded us easy access to the institution as a whole. Thus the giants at whose feet we sat were teachers from all the Faculties of the university.

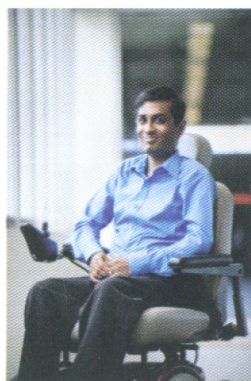
What did the University of Ceylon and my teachers do for me? In a nutshell, they taught me to be true to myself. From this has arisen whatever other qualities of mind and heart that I possess.

Over the years, I have done my best not to let either my teachers or my university down. Peradeniya and the education I received here, both in and out of the classroom, has equipped me to hold my own wherever in the world I have had the opportunity to go. The University of Peradeniya (as it is known today) is certainly different from the institution I encountered and benefited from, over four decades ago. Sadly, change and decay are part and parcel of life and individual or institution is immune from this reality. But, there yet is so much to be grateful for, as no one can take away from us what we learnt and took away from here. I shall hold on to all that I was taught and learnt here throughout the changing scenes of life.

Activities of the AAUP 2014/2015

This year, in addition to the usual projects for the promotion of the wellbeing of undergraduates and alumni, the AAUP focused attention on two fund-raising projects. A well-attended "Bring & Buy sale" was held on 28 January 2015; the second project will be completed on 29 March 2015.





We record with deep regret the demise of Mr. Sampath Malaka, IT Instructor and Academic Assistant at the Special Needs Resource Centre (SNRC), University of Peradeniya (2008-2010). He completed a B. Sc. Hons. Degree with Mathematics and Statistics (University of Peradeniya, 2004), and an M. Sc. in Computer Science (2009),

PGIS, University of Peradeniya. He also completed the Master of Disability Studies, Flinders University, South Australia (2015). Sampath Malaka interacted closely with the late Prof. D.P. M. Weerakkody, Dept. of Classical Languages, and was a source great strength and inspiration to the students of the SNRC. Sampath also facilitated and collaborated with the AAUP to obtain much needed equipment for the SNRC.

May he attain Nibbana!

Activities of the AAUP 2014/15

Student welfare program

Studentships and scholarships 2014

| | |
|---|-----|
| Peradeniya University Alumni Australia, Victoria Chapter in Australia (PUAAViC) | 124 |
| Alumni Association of Peradeniya University – Ottawa chapter, Canada | 16 |
| Alumni Association of Peradeniya University – Canberra chapter, Australia | 16 |
| Peradeniya University Alumni Association New South Wales Australia (PUAAN) | 08 |
| AAUP studentships | 16 |

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

Scholarship for Excellence in Biology 2014

Ms. S.K. Kannangara (S/11/200)

Prof. Ashly Halpe Scholarship 01 English (Faculty of Arts)

Scholarship for Excellence in English 2014

Ms. V.E. Rajapakshe (A/11/629)

New South Wales (PUAAN) Chapter of AAUP 02

Faculty of Arts

Scholarship for Excellence 2014

Ms. Aboobucker Fathima Thahara (A/11/820)

Ms. R.G.R.M.N.C.K.Rathnayake (A/11/AI/1018)

Mr. Y.W. Gunawardena Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship for Excellence in Geography 2014

Ms. M.M.G.S. Dilini (A/11/118)



Prof. H.W. Dias Scholarship

Scholarship for Excellence in Chemistry 2014

Ms. F.T. Banu (S/09/015)

Peradeniya University Alumni Australia Victoria Chapter Scholarship

R.D.W. Rajapaksa (D/11/073)

Peradeniya University Alumni Australia Victoria Chapter

Scholarship for Excellence in Electrical & Electronic Engineering 2014

Mr Chatumal Perera (E/10/248)

Mr. Shrirantha Welikala (E/10/390)

Scholarship for Excellence in Statistics & Computer Science 2014

M.B.I. Shiran (S/10/511)

K.R. Aravinda (S/10/685)

G.S.R.De Silva (S/10/806)

M.M.T.R. Herath (S/09/909)

Scholarship for Excellence in Zoology 2014

Ms D.K. Navaratne (S/10/176)

Professor Shelton Kodikara Memorial Scholarship in Political Science 2014

Ms R.M.S. Madushani (A/10/317)

Ms M.N.Fathima Nadihiya (A/10/354)

Professor Wimal Weerakkody Memorial Scholarship in Special Needs 2014

Ms. K.A.A.Subhashini (A/10/568)

Sasha Shamlie Scholarship in Chemistry 2014

Mr. G.G.A.S.N. Kumara (S/10/182)

The Annual AAUP overnight excursion, November 08th and 09th, 2014



The annual AAUP trip, this year, was to Batticaloa - territory we had never ventured into before. 33 participants, including AAUP members, families and friends set out at 6:15 on November 08 from the Faculty of Science.

Breakfast was in the bus, with a stop at Gimhana restaurant, Dambulla for a warm cup of tea. The next stop was at Passikudah beach for a refreshing dip in the sea, a bottle of Vodka and a scrumptious sea-food lunch at a nearby restaurant. Those of us, who were reluctant to venture out to the sea, amused ourselves with a boat trip in the vicinity!

Our next stop was the very impressive Eastern University campus. A librarian at the Eastern University who had a thorough knowledge of the area as well as the activities of the LTTE during the war acted as our tour guide. We were enthralled by the vivid descriptions of the skirmishes he had personally experienced.

Our residence for the night was the hotel "Bridge View". Although there was no bridge "to view" from the hotel site, the hotel itself, was conveniently located and provided comfortable accommodation for our party. We visited several places of interest in the Batticalao city such as the old Dutch Fort, Batticalao Gate and the light house. Some of us enjoyed a boat trip on the Batticalao lagoon while others wondered around the park. Dinner was followed by a sing-song.

Early next morning, after a delicious Batticalao breakfast of Dosa, Itly, Bread and Pittu, we set off with great enthusiasm, for the Thoppigala heritage site. Unfortunately however, the bus proved too long and could not navigate the gravel road with many culverts and we had to return to the main highway. At this point we were plagued by a malfunctioning ac system which did not in any way dampen our enthusiasm or enjoyment. After a bath at the Maha Oya hot water springs, we headed towards the Dambana Adivasi Village, where we had a glimpse of the life - style of the villagers and their arts and crafts.

After a visit to the Mahiyangana Buddhist temple, we had a cup of tea at the Mahiyanganaya Rest House and began our return journey, singing all the way! As planned, we reached the Peradeniya campus by 8.30 pm, concluding yet another enjoyable AAUP trip.

Dr. Anura P. Dantanarayana

