

AAUP NEWS

Vol. 3 No. 1, 1994

(November 1993 - May 1994)

Alumni Association, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya

* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 5th AGM was held on 28.11.1993 in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya. Prof. Promod Verma from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India, delivered the guest speech on the theme "Strategic Human Resources Management" which provoked a long and lively discussion on issues related to management.

The AGM was followed by a reunion lunch and a get-together at the Staff Common Room of the Faculty of Agriculture. The occasion provided an opportunity for the members to relax and to interact with each other. Many members from the Colombo Chapter also participated in this event.

* OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1993/94

President: Prof. SA Kulasooriya

President-Elect: Ms. Vagdevi Fernando Past

President: Prof. KW Goonewardena

Vice-Presidents: Mr. MB Adikaram, Ms. Chitra Karunaratne, Prof. MP Ranaweera, Prof. Nimal Senanayake, Mr. Tissa Wirasinghe, Mr. Chandrananda De Silva

Gen. Secretary: Ms. Sudharma Nandasena

Treasurer: Mr. WH Sumanasiri

Asst. Secretaries: Ms. Raihan Ahmed and Ms. Daisy Seneviratne

Asst. Treasurer: Ms. Kamala Sirisena

Exc. Comm. Members: Dr. H. Abeygunawardena, Prof. Kapila Dahanayaka, Mr. Wimal Dissanayake, Ms. Lalitha Gunawardena, Dr. Neil Halpe, Mr. HMD Herath, Dr. KB Herath, Dr. Wijaya Jayatilake, Mr. MKS Kumara, Prof. Savithri Kumar, Mr. DP Mendis, Mr. V Nandakumar, Mr. Godwin Perera, Ms. Ira Perera, Dr. Athula Pitigala Arachchi, Mr. Mahinda Senanayake, Mr. Sarath Seneviratne, Mr. Kingsley Wickremasuriya.

* AAUP ACTIVITIES

STUDENT WELFARE PROGRAMMES

The Needy Students Fund (NSF)

In the current year too we helped a few undergraduates through our Needy Students Fund. A student from the Faculty of Vet. Medicine and Animal Sc. who required special medical attention was given Rs.5000/-. We also assisted another undergraduate who represented the University at the World University Games at Buffalo, USA by donating Rs.3000/- to meet travel expenses.

We express our thanks to all our members and well wishers who contributed to this Fund.

Contributions to the NSF are most
WELCOME

Studentships for Undergraduates

Through the good efforts of many of our members, the following studentships have been founded:

Dr. WLW Vitharana Memorial Studentship:

Founded by: Ms. Lalitha Wirasinghe, Librarian, British Council, Kandy in memory of her father.

Awarded to: Mr. HAU Denagama, Faculty of Dental Sc. for the Academic Year 1993/94.

Sarojini Knight Memorial Studentships:

Founded by: Ms. Lalitha Gunawardena, Staff Member of the English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) of the University in memory of the late

Ms. Saro Knight, an alumna and former staff member of the ELTU.

Awarded to: Miss Rupika Liyanage, Faculty of Engineering and Mr. M R Hanangalaarachchi, Faculty of Medicine for the Academic Year 1993/94.

Contributions made by: Ms. Lalitha Gunawardena, Ms. Cynthia Dahanayake, Ms. Shamalai de Zoysa, Ms. Malkanthi de Silva, Ms. R Maduradasa, Mr. & Ms. T Thiruchithampalam, Ms. A Sathyendran, Mr. Tissa Jayatilaka, Ms. Sriya Ratnayake and staff of the ELTU.

The ELTU with the assistance of the AAUP organized a fund raising project to support this studentship. Ms. Somalatha Subasinghe's play "Trial of Didan Kimanththi" was staged at the E O E Pereria Theater of the Faculty of Engineering on 12th December 1993.

The organizing committee donated Rs. 21,414/-, this sum being the proceeds from the sale of tickets. We are grateful to Ms. Sumi Dharmadasa (Head/ELTU), Ms. S N Omar and the members of the Organizing Committee for their efforts.

Peradeniya Chemistry Graduates Studentships

Founded by: Prof. Savitri Kumar to help students following the Special Chemistry Degree Programme at the University.

Awarded to: Miss D Weerabahu, Miss Lalitha Seneviratne & Miss Nishanthi Wijesinghe for the Academic Year 1993/94.

Contributions made by: Prof. Savitri Kumar, Dr. BMr. Bandara, Dr. G Weeratunga, Dr. DS Wimalasena, Dr. V Karunaratne, Prof. GO Aspinall, Prof. GP Wannigama, Dr. ADL Chandani, Dr. Sunil Jayasuriya, Dr. Jayantha Amarasekera, Dr. Anwer Dole, Dr. Roshanthi Lalanandhan, Dr. Dimutu Jayawickrama, Mr. S Gunawardena, Mr. K Anandarajah, Mr. M Maharouf, Mr. N Warshakoon, Prof. O A Illeperuma.

Other Studentships

The following studentships were founded recently and will be advertised shortly.

AAUP Executive Committee Studentships

Founded by: AAUP Executive Committee.

Contributions made by: Ms. Vagdevi Fernando, Prof. MP Ranaweera, Prof. Savitri Kumar, Mr. DP Mendis, Mr. Mahinda Senanayake, Ms. Sudharma Nandasena, **Sri Lanka Federation of University Women (Kandy Branch)**

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The Kandy Hotels Company (1938) Ltd Studentship

Founded by: Mr. C Sankarakumaran, one of our Founder Members and Member of the University Council. The Kandy Hotels Co. (1938) Ltd (Owners of Queen's Hotel & Suisse Hotel, Kandy) donated Rs.25,000/- to fund this studentship.

Ir L Van Holm Studentship

Initiated by Prof. SA Kulasooriya, Engineer L Van Holm, Team Leader of BNF Project donated Rs.10,000/- to establish this studentship.

Mr. & Ms. Abeywickrama of Kurunduwatte, Kotapola Memorial Studentship

Mr. Nanda Abeywickrama, Director, International Cooperation of IIMI and a member of the AAUP founded this studentship in memory of his parents.

Prof. B L T De Silva Memorial Studentships

Founded by: Prof. Savitri Kumar in memory of her late father to help students offering Botany as a subject at the General/Special Science Degree Programme at the University.

Contributions made by: Ms. P De Silva, Ms. Malini Dias, Mr. DS Jayawickrama, Mr. SS Jayawickrama, Ms. Sriani Fernando, Dr. Charles Santiapillai, Ms. Devaki Daluwatta, Prof. Savitri Kumar, Ms. Kamani Fernando, Mr. Daya Wickrematunga, Chemical Industries (Colombo) Ltd., Chemanex Ltd.

Prof. S Balasubramaniam Memorial Studentships

Founded by : The Dept. of Botany of the University in memory of the late Prof. Balasubramaniam, former staff member of the

Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya.

Contributions made by : Prof. JM Anderson, Prof. K Vlassak, Mr. AHM Jayasuriya, Prof. NKB Adikaram, Dr. (Ms.) Rohini Abeygoonasekera, Prof. SA Kulasooriya, Prof. AAL Gunatilake, Mr. Roger White, Prof. Vijaya Kumar, Prof. Savitri Kumar, Mr. KT Arasu, Dr. (Ms.) S Balachandran, Ms. Anjani Karunaratne, Mr. DMD Dissanayake, Dr. MHV Cooray, Dr. Mala Fernando, Mr. Siril Wijesundera, Ms. Sunethra Dharmasiri, Prof. Nimal Senanayake, Dr. P Vivekanandan, Dr. Saliya Kumarasinghe, University Science Teachers' Association, Peradeniya.

An initial payment of Rs. 5000/- is required to found a studentship. For details please contact the General Secretary.

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Book Donation Project

This project is to assist the expansion of the collection of University Library. We collect valuable and rare books, journals etc. All books received will be duly acknowledged. Those who are interested in this project are kindly requested to contact Mr. A Senadeera, Librarian, University of Peradeniya (Tel. Off. 88678 res. 25286) or Ms. Daisy Seneviratne Asst. Secretary/ AAUP.

Assistance to Various Departments/Centres/Units of the University

The objective of this project is to assist various departments, units etc. of the University to expand their facilities. Under this programme the AAUP donated linen and crockery to the Health Center and a gas Cooker and a cylinder to a women's hostel.

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We express our gratitude to the members of our Colombo Chapter who contributed to this project generously.

For details please contact Ms. Kamala Sirisena/Asst.Treasurer/AAUP
(Tel. 08-88103)

Alumni Park

The land between the Gymnasium and the right bank of Maha-Oya has been reserved to lay out a park. This will be a contribution of the AAUP towards the physical development of the University. Stage I of the project; the demarcation of the area and clearing the ground has been completed. Stage II is to beautify the park by making a few foot paths and by erecting a few lamp posts and park benches. We need sponsors who could give their time/expertise/funds for the successful completion of this project. Further information can be obtained from Sarath Seneviratne (Dept.of Mechanical Engineering tel 08-88029) or Ms. Raihan Ahamed, Asst. Secretary/AAUP (tel 08-88301-305).

WELFARE OF MEMBERS

Alumni Service Desk

Through the "Alumni Service Desk" members and any past students could obtain information and services from the University. Members are welcome to use the facilities of the University through the AAUP. For details contact the General Secretary.

Health Camps

The Association is planning to organize a few health camps (medical and dental) for our members and their families. These camps will be held in Peradeniya. Those who wish to attend the camps or to help organize such camps are kindly requested to contact Dr. K B Herath, Nuclear Medicine Unit, Medical Faculty, U of P (Tel. 08-88315, 08-88361).

Recreation Activities

Under this programme the Executive Committee invited its members their families and friends for two excursions : The first outing was to Polonnaruwa. Mr. D K Jayaratna from the Dept.of Archaeology guided us on the tour to the ancient monuments at Polonnaruwa. In April this year two groups went and stayed at Kudawa Camp, Sinharaja. Profs. Nimal & Savitri Gunatilleke organized a very informative programme. Mr. Upali Ekanayake an expert in wild life, especially "birds" accompanied us and helped the "bird watchers" to enhance their knowledge. Most of us who went to Sinharaja felt that it was not only of academic interest but also was a life time opportunity to be so close to nature. Dr. Piyaseeli Wijemammne who went on this trip was inspired to write the following poem on the Giant Navada Tree, which is endemic to Sri Lanka.

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Since the above two excursions were organized as a pilot project only a limited number of members participated. Hence, now we have decided to extend this programme to all members who wish to join us on these excursions.

The next trips in the schedule are :

Horton Plains (August, 1994)
Anuradhapura (December, 1994).
Sinharaja (March/April 1995)

For further information please contact
Sudharma Nandasena, Gen. Secretary (tel 08-88301-305, 88167).

Language Courses

The AAUP has commenced an **English Language Course** for the benefit of our members and the staff of the University. The main objective of the course is to upgrade the proficiency level in English. Classes are held at the ELTU of the Faculty of Engineering during week days (evening). Details can be obtained from Ms. Lalitha Gunawardena, Coordinator of the programme (ELTU/Faculty of Engineering tel off 08-88045 res 08-88185).

A "Beginners Course in Tamil" is planned for this year. Those who are interested please contact Mr. Tissa Wirasinghe, Chairman of the Committee on Continuing & Extension Education. (No.7, Mahamaya MW, Kandy tel 08-23471 or Ms. Daisy Seneviratne, Assistant Secretary).

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

* FUND RAISING PROGRAMMES

AAUP Raffle

We have organized a Raffle to generate funds for our activities towards student welfare and university development. The draw of

the raffle is scheduled on 14.08.94. Mr. Asoka Amunugama, Director/ Precision Tech Services (Pvt) Ltd. has kindly consented to donate a Computer as the first prize of the AAUP Raffle. There will be two other main prizes and some consolation prizes. Please buy a ticket (price is Rs.10/-) and help us in the fund raising campaign.

For details contact Prof. MP Ranaweera (Tel. Off. 08-88158 Res. 08-32013), Sarath Seneviratne (Tel. 88029),
or Ms. Raihan Ahamed, Asst. Secretary/AAUP

An Esala Pola & Reunion

This event will be organized as a fund raising activity for the Needy Students Fund and also as a forum for Alumni to meet and have some fun. The date scheduled is 14.08.1994 and venue will be the Peradeniya Campus. For the benefit of our members a **health camp** too will be run on this day.

Members, their families and friends are cordially invited for the Esala Pola and for the Re-Union. Please keep this day free to join us.

Anyone who wishes to donate plants/ clothes/books etc for this fund raising project or to run a stall/s at the Pola premises are kindly requested to contact Ms. Vagdevi Fernando (tel off 34390 res 22106), Ms. Chitra Karunaratna (tel off 01-694093 res 01-552381) the Gen. Secretary/ Assistant Secretaries/ Asst. Treasurer

* MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The Directory is being compiled and planned to publish in this year. Only the information of life members and current members will be included in the Directory.

Those who have not renewed their membership for the current year are kindly requested to renew their membership (Rs.50/-annually).

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We have decided to grant a concession regarding membership fees. Under this concession a member can convert his/her registration to life membership status by paying Rs.500/- in two installments. This concession is also extended to other alumni who wish to enrol themselves as new members. We earnestly request ordinary members to convert their memberships to **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** status effective from this year.

* STUDENT WELFARE PROJECTS

Vision Camps and Health Camps for Students

In collaboration with our Colombo Chapter every year we organize **Vision Camps** to help undergraduates with vision problems and also donate spectacles free of charge. The Colombo Chapter had already set apart a handsome sum for this project. This activity is scheduled for August this year.

Further information can be obtained from Mr. D P Mendis, Coordinator of the Colombo Chapter (tel 01-716193), Dr. (Ms.) S P Amarasiri, Chief Medical Officer of the University (88152) or from the General Secretary.

The AAUP in collaboration with PEMSA (Peradeniya Medical School Association) hopes to conduct a **medical check-up** for our undergraduates in July/August this year. For details please contact Prof. Nimal Senanayake (tel 88260, 32572) or Dr. K B Herath (tel 88361, 88315).

* POPULAR LECTURE SERIES

The AAUP is organizing a programme of lecture series/discussions on current topics. Some of the topics in the schedule are AIDS and Society, Drug Problem, Man and the Environment etc.

Details can be obtained from Dr. K B Herath or Dr. Neil Halpe (tel res 08-32140).

* SEMINAR/WORKSHOPS

The AAUP in collaboration with the Colombo Chapter is planning to hold the following seminars/workshops in July/August this year.

Seminar on "Education, English and Employment".

Workshop on "Graduate Employment".

Venue: Peradeniya Campus.

* MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We kindly request our members to help us in the Membership Drive. Please send names of your colleagues/friends for us to send application forms and relevant documents.

* NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Appointments/Achievements

Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra has been appointed Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya (U of P) and will also serve as the Patron of our Association. Prof. B L Panditharatne, the first President of the AAUP was appointed Chairman of the University Grants Commission. Two members of the AAUP Prof. K W Goonawardena (former President/AAUP) and Prof. Ananda Kulasuriya were granted status of Emeritus Professors of the U of P. Prof. Nimal Senanayake and Prof. R P Gunawardena were appointed Dean/Medicine and Dean/Science of the U of P respectively. Prof. Ashly Halpe was elected President of the Alliance de France, Kandy. He also received the Presidential Award "Kalakeerhie" for 1994. Prof. S Thillainathan also received the title of "Kalakeerhie" this year. Ms. Jezima Ismail from our Colombo Chapter has been elected President of the Sri Lanka Federation of University Women (SLFUW). Ms. Ira Perera (Executive Committee Member/ AAUP) has been appointed President of the Kandy Branch of the

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SLFUW. Mr. Chandrananda de Silva, Commissioner of Elections has been elected Chairman of the Colombo Chapter of the AAUP. Mr. Frank De Silva, Vice-President of our Colombo Chapter was appointed Inspector General. Mr. Sudath Gunasekera (former Executive Committee Member/AAUP) has been appointed Secretary, Ministry of Technical Education & Add. Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education. Mr. Prema Pinnewala has been appointed Secretary General, Olympic Committee,

Mr. Gerald Hidelaratchi has been re-elected President of the Institute of Purchasing & Materials Management. He is planning to host "APCON 94" which is the Asia Pacific Regional Conference of the Institute. Ms. Kamala Wijerathna has published "The White Saree and other Poems". Dr. Piyaseeli Wijemanne has recently published her novel "Patumagaka- wasiyo". Prof. Savitri Kumar won the Institute of Chemistry Gold Medal for 1994. Ms. Daisy Seneviratne was appointed Assistant Librarian/ PGIM.

Tissera, Dr. M B Kahawatte, Dr. Hector Mendis, Ms. Manel Karunatilake, Dr. Magdon Jayasuriya, Dr. Udeni Edirisinghe, Dr. P M K Alahakoon, Dr. Ananda Abeyratne.

Full Ordinary

Mr. B A David

NOTE

Members are welcome to share news through the AAUP Newsletter. Please contact the main office for details.

Alumni Association

University of Peradeniya

Senate Building, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya.

Tel. 08-88301-305, 88167

Fax 08-11151 7 08-88104

CONGRATULATIONS !

Obituaries

The AAUP regrets to record the death of our first patron Mr. Fred E De Silva who was also the Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya and Prof. A D P Jayatilaka (former Vice-President/AAUP), Mr. Dayananda Gunawardena, Mr. J B Dissanayake, Ms. Kalyani de Silva and Mr. Gamini Herath (former Exc. member/ AAUP) who had contributed much to the development of our Association.

New members

We welcome the following new members:

Full Life

Mr. Sampath Dissanayake, Dr. Walter