



AAUP AGM Newsletter 2020

March 2019 - 2020

Email: aaupslk@gmail.com

Web site: www.pdn.ac.lk/alumni

News update of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya

INSIDETHISSUE:

30th AGM of the AAUP

Scholarships

Activities

Thursday Forums

Obituary

Message from the President AAUP - Prof. Siril Wijesundara



The year 2020 is a very special year for all of us at the University of Peradeniya as the university is included among the first 50 universities in the world, according to Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The University has never achieved this level of global recognition in the recent past. The University of Peradeniya is also ranked first

among the universities in Sri Lanka according to webometrics and QS world ranking systems. It is vital for the university administration, academic staff and students to work towards maintaining the high standards of our Alma mater and strive to improve it further. It goes beyond saying that we, the AAUP, too would extend our fullest support in achieving this goal. AAUP hopes to muster support from all alumni, both within and outside Sri Lanka,

AAUP Executive Committee members for 2019/2020

President - Prof. Siril Wijesundara

Immediate 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

Vice President - Prof. Savithri Kumar

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 Gunathilake

Mr. Prabath Gunathilaka

Prof. Barana Jayawardena

Prof. Chantha Jayawardena

Mr. K.A.H. Kalugampitiya

Dr. Hemali Nandalal

Mrs. Sujatha Karunarathna

Col. Dr. Udula Krishnaratne

Dr. Amalka Pinidiyaarachchi

Prof. Rupika Rajakaruna

Dr. V. Sivakumar

Mr. Ashwin Wickramasooriya

Mrs. Chandra Weerawardena

Prof. Chandrika Jayasinghe



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

The 30th AGM was held under the Presidency of Eng. Sarath Seneviratne with Emeritus Professor Vidyajothi C. B. Dissanayake as the Chief Guest and Dr. Chandra Embuldeniya - former Vice Chancellor Uva Wellassa University - as the Guest of Honour. After the lighting of the Traditional Oil lamp by the dignitaries, the President AAUP, Eng. Sarath Seneviratne The 30th AGM was held under the Presidency of Eng. Sarath Seneviratne with Vidyajothi Emeritus Professor C.B. Dissanayake as the Chief Guest and Dr. Chandra Embuldeniya - former Vice Chancellor Uva Wellassa University - as the Guest of Honour. After the lighting of the Traditional Oil lamp by the dignitaries, President of the AAUP welcomed the invitees and the members to the 30th AGM. Thereafter, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Upul B. Dissanayake addressed the gathering outlining the progress made by the university in recent times. The Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour after being introduced spoke on the contributions made by each of them to their respective universities and to the country as a whole. Greetings from sister Chapters in Colombo and Wayamba were conveyed by the respective Presidents, followed by the award of AAUP Scholarships and Studentships. 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. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by the General Secretary, Dr. Anoja Wanigasekara. Election of office bearers for the coming year was the next key event, after which the invitees and members dispersed to the Lodge for lunch and fellowship.



Inauguration of the 30th AGM



President AAU & Treasurer at the Head Table



Vice Chancellor addressing the members



Chief Guest, Vidyajothi Emeritus Professor C. B. Dissanayake



Guest of Honour Dr. Chandra Embuldeniya



Section of the Audience at the 30th AGM



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

30th AGM - Fellowship & Lunch at the Lodge

(The photos speak for themselves)



Award of AAUP Studentships 2018/2019

A total of 60 studentships were awarded to students from nine Faculties of the University. Funds for the studentships come from donations made by individual donors and by members of overseas Chapters, as indicated below

Memorial and other Studentships	
Mr.& Mrs. M.J. Peris Memorial Studentship	Dr.Jayantha Dhanapala Studentship
Sri Lanka Women (Belgium) Association	Mr.Rajah Aturaliye Memorial Studentship
Prof. S. Balasubramanium Memorial Studentship	
Adeline Memorial Studentship	Studentships from Overseas Chapters & Number of Studentships awarded
77" Batch Studentship	
Prof. G.P. Wannigama Memorial Studentships - 2	PUAAN Chapter - 07
Mr. Norman & Matilda and Anula Malini Abeyrathne Studentship	Ottawa Chapter - 27
Prof. WR Breckenridge memorial studentship	Canberra Chapter - 15

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 1 st 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 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 1 st year examination -Faculty of Agriculture	J.B.S.K. Jayantha
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination -Faculty of Arts	K.P.D.S. Kandangamuwa
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination - Faculty of Dental Sciences	M.C.T. Hewapathirana
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination -Faculty of Medicine	N.A.D.S. Wimalarathne W.R.L. Withana
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination-Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	R.A.U. Kaushalya
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1 st year examination -Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	S.S. Dalugoda
Sydney NSW AAUP scholarship for Best performance at 1 st 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 1 st year examination -Faculty of Engineering	L.H.S.U. Balasooriya

Important Meetings Held by the AAUP

Meeting with the Vice-Chancellor & Dean/Arts

A meeting was held on 20th June 2019 with the Vice-Chancellor & the Dean-Arts to find out how the expertise of the AAUP could help the University community. The Vice-Chancellor stressed the need to (i) Improve the English writing skills of the Non-academic staff (ii) Refurbish the green room of the Prof. Sarathchandra Open Air Theatre and the Dean Arts to (iii) Improve the English language skills of students entering the Faculty from outstation schools where English teachers are not available. Plans are underway to fulfil these requests.

Preliminaries of forming the Northern Chapter of the AAUP

Several members of the AAUP led by Eng. Sarath Seneviratne, met with 19 alumni of the University of Peradeniya now resident in the North, at the University of Jaffna, Killinochchi campus on 07th January 2020 for a preliminary meeting. An interim committee was elected at this meeting that included Dr. Siva Kumar from the University of Peradeniya to spearhead the activities for the establishment of the Northern Chapter of the AAUP

Yet another Meeting with the Vice Chancellor

Several senior members of the Exco met with the Vice Chancellor on 16th December 2019 to discuss matters related to the AAUP office. Among them were the requests for access to a wash room for the AAUP office, an office assistant for the AAUP through the University and a more spacious office in the upcoming building. Also, to address the notion that AAUP is not given due recognition in the affairs of the university.

AAUP invited by PEFAA to the meeting held with Mr. Milinda Moragoda, Advisor to the President

The Colombo Chapter of the Peradeniya Engineering Faculty Alumni Association (PEFAA) invited the current President of the AAUP, Prof. Siril Wijesundara and the former President Eng. Sarath Seneviratne to the meeting they had with Mr. Milinda Moragoda, Advisor to the President, on 31st January 2020. The objective of this meeting was to promote the University of Peradeniya's latest achievement in being ranked with the best 500 Universities globally. Mr. Milinda Moragoda is of the view that the significance of this achievement should be conveyed to His Excellency the President. Several other ideas to boost the status of the University were discussed at this meeting, which are to be followed up.

Classes conducted by the AAUP

IELTS Classes for young academics and new graduates

In collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit of the University, AAUP held IELTS classes for Junior lecturers and new graduates. Classes were conducted by Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardena.

Spoken Tamil Classes for Academic & Administrative staff

The spoken Tamil classes organized in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Association of Graduate Women Kandy (SLAGWK) full-filled a long felt request of the AAUP membership. Classes were conducted by Mrs. Pat Jayatilleke, assisted by Ms. Indira Kandasamy & Ms. Kamila Rasheed, commencing from 01st July 2019 The concluding session of the spoken Tamil was held on 16 December 2019.

Fund Raising Activities by the AAUP

AAUP Runs a Stall at the General Convocation – 2018

A fundraising activity was conducted to coincide with the General Convocation held on 04th July 2019. A make shift sales outlet was organized in the Geology-Geography porch where a variety of AAUP souvenirs were on sale together with the book on “Garden University of Peradeniya”. Committee members took turns to help. A membership drive was also launched to attract past graduates.

The Bring & Buy Sale of the AAUP

The Bring & Buy sale held to raise funds for the AAUP was held on Tuesday 05th November 2019 at the WUS Wala. Items for the sale were donated by members and well wishers. Also, stalls were set up by Noritake Lanka Porcelain and growers of ornamental plants. Income from the bring and buy sale organized by Prof. Rupika Rajakaruna, assisted by Exco members would go to fund AAUP activities and the running of the AAUP office.

Thursday Forum - Revived

Talk on - RE-VISITING PERADENIYA- A JOURNEY THROUGH SIX CENTURIES”

Prof. Sarath Edirisinghe, a retired medical Parasitologist from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, who has a passion for history, spoke on a historic topic at the Thursday Forum held on 29th August 2019.



President of the AAUP introducing the speaker, Prof. Channa Rathnatunga



The speaker being introduced at the Thursday Forum Talk by Prof. Sarath Edirisinghe

Talk on “LIFE DURING AND AFTER STROKES -MY PERSONAL STORY’ IMPORTANT LESSONS TO FIGHT AGAINST STROKE

Dr. Channa Rathnatunga, retired Surgeon, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, spoke on this topic with experience, as he himself had a heart attack and was keen to advice others. The talk was held on 21st November 2019.

Talk on “Food for Thought: The Impact of Diet and Nutrition on Human Development

Prof. Nishan Sudeera Kalupahana, Human Nutrition and Consultant Nutritionist, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya spoke on a very pertinent topic on 19th March 2020.

Excursions of the AAUP - Organized by Dr. Danthanarayana

Two Day Trip to Haputhale

The destination of this year’s annual trip on the 29th and 30th of August was Haputhale, the infamous Uva basin. Many breathe taking views of the Haputhale mountain ridges and valleys, with the Udawalawe reservoir in the backdrop, tracking

uphill to the tallest waterfall in Sri Lanka- the Bambarakande fall, a sumptuous dinner hosted by the Colombo Chapter President, Col. Dr. Udula Krishnarathene at the Diyathalawa Army Base Camp and a walk along the famous Demodara -



Participants on an adventurous ride...



In the backdrop of the misty mountaon

One Day Trip to Mandaram Nuwara

The third and the last trip for the year was on 11th December 2019 to the misty Mandaram Nuwara, well known for its natural beauty; breathtaking mountains and cascading waterfalls. Garadiya Ella, Ethini Ella and Kolapathana Ella are few of

the large waterfalls seen on the way. The visit to the power plant at Elamulla led to an unexpected event. The Goodwood Hill Resort where lunch was served had a breathtaking panoramic view.

Welfare Activities of the AAUP

Cash Donations to differently-abled students of the Faculty of Arts

At the program conducted by the AAUP to commemorate the World Disabled Day (WDD) on 03 December cash donations (Rs. 3,000/- per student) were made to 25 differently-abled students of the Faculty of Arts by the Colombo Chapter/AAUP. The Dean Faculty of Arts, Prof. O.G Dayaratne Banda addressed the gathering and Dr. Leena Seneheweera, the Coordinator/ Special Needs Resource Centre (SNRC) made a presentation on music therapy. Members of the ExCo, President of the Colombo Chapter, Coln. Dr. Udula Krishnaratne and well wishers were present on the occasion.



Col. Dr. Udula Krishnaratne, President of the Colombo Chapter presenting a cash donation to a differently-abled student

“Hanthane Api 2020” - A Memorable Musical Evening

The Padur Party held on Saturday 25th January 2020 at the Auditorium of the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, was organised in collaboration with the Colombo Chapter. The entrance ticket included refreshment and dinner as well. The audience had the opportunity to sing with the orchestra when

several of the former actors and singers of Sarathchandra plays in the audience took to the stage. A dance item presented by the undergraduates of the Agriculture Faculty added glamour to the musical evening. It was an evening enjoyed by all. The event will linger in the minds and hearts of all those who were present.



Members of the AAUP led by Dr. Leena Seneheweera in harmony with the Orchestra

A landmark event of the AAUP -Establishment of the Northern Chapter

The official inauguration of the Northern Chapter of the AAUP

The AAUP is happy and proud to announce the inauguration of the Northern Chapter as its fourth local Chapter on 08 March 2020 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna. The establishment of the Northern Chapter is an outcome of a series of discussions and an initial meeting held at Killinochchi Campus on 07th January 2020 led by the Immediate Past President of the AAUP, Eng. Sarath Seneviratne and Dr. V. Sivakumar of the AAUP Executive Committee.

Over 40 alumni of the Peradeniya University resident in and around Jaffna were present at this historic inaugural meeting. Also present were members of the AAUP Executive Committee, headed by the President, Prof. Siril Wijesundara, the Immediate Past President Eng. Sarath Seneviratne, Presidents of Colombo and Ruhunu Chapters.

The very first Committee of the Northern Chapter was elected at this meeting to spearhead activities and strengthen the Chapter. Prof. K. Sivapalan, retired Professor of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna was elected as the first President of the Northern Chapter of the AAUP. Dr. G. Kumaralogini and Dr.T. Prabakaran were elected as General Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The Executive Committee included 05 Vice Presidents and several other office bearers in line with the AAUP Constitution. The AAUP invites all past and present graduates of the University of Peradeniya resident in the North to rally round and contribute to the success of the Northern Chapter.



AAUP -Northern Chapter founder members gathered for the inauguration posing with the AAUP Exco committee



The very first Exco committee of the AAUP-Northern Chapter in discussion with AAUP Past President Eng. Sarath Seneviratne

A welcome development – AAUP given an opportunity to address the new entrants to the Faculty of Arts

The ceremony to welcome the new entrants to the Faculty of Arts was held on 03rd February 2020 at the University Gymnasium. Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake of the AAUP addressed the new entrants during their Orientation program. The contributions the AAUP make towards the welfare of student was highlighted making the students aware of the role of the AAUP in the University. It is the wish of the AAUP that other faculties too would follow suit.

A huge leap for the AAUP: An important milestone in student welfare

The AAUP has taken a bold step in its attempt to extend the Campus Wi-Fi Network to the University Halls of Residence, thereby provide Internet facilities to students in Halls of Residence. This would bring relief to a large majority of students and would have a cost -cutting effect on their stringent budget. It would also promote online teaching and learning. Phase I of the project was officially launched on 06th February 2020 and would initially provide Internet facility to the Akbar Nell Hall Complex. Donations are sought from well wishers and former occupants of Halls of Residences to complete this project. The project was envisaged and spearheaded by Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake of the AAUP.



Launching of the Phase I of the Project to extend the Campus Wi-Fi Network to the University Halls of Residences

Obituaries

The AAUP announces the passing away of several of its alumni during the year under review.

Mr. Siripala Weerawardena : Mr. Siripala Weerawardena, a dedicated alumnus of the University passed away on 19th May 2019. He is gratefully remembered for his contribution of Rs. 2 million towards the Museum/ Art gallery project of the University.

Professor R.G. Panabokke : Prof. Panabokke, a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya (1985-1988), passed away in 2019. Prof. Panabokke was a Consultant Pathologist and held several important positions in the University and the Teaching Hospital. He is remembered as the very first member of the AAUP and for his contribution to the AAUP in the initial stages of its establishment.

Professor Emeritus J.A. Gunawardena : Prof. Gunawardena, an Electrical & Electronic Engineer who served the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Peradeniya from 1961 to 2002, passed away on 2nd September 2019 at the age of 83. A pioneer in the teaching of computer programming in Sri Lanka, the contributions of Prof. Gunawardena as an Engineer are many.

Mr. Aubrey Kuruppu : Aubrey Kuruppu, the well known cricket commentator in English on the radio, passed away on 12th October 2019 at the age of 74. He was a complete cricketer; coach, cricket writer, administrator, an umpire, match referee and a commentator. He was attached to the English Teaching Unit (ELTU) of the University of Peradeniya until his retirement.

Mr. Rohana Kumara : Mr. Rohana Kumara of the 68th alumni batch and lived in Dolosbage, Gampola passed away on 06th December 2019.

Dr. Jayalath Manoratne : Dr. Manoratne, a veteran dramatist and an actor passed away on 12th January 2020 at the age of 71. He has rendered a great service to the Sri Lankan theatre, television and silver screen. As an alumnus of the University of Peradeniya, he attended many an AGMs and his presence was mostly felt at the AGM – fellowship held at the Lodge.

Emeritus Professor M. D. Dassanayake :

Prof. M.D. Dassanayake, former Head and Professor of Botany at the University of Peradeniya, a colossus in Sri Lanka's botanical landscape, died on 03rd February 2020 at the age of 98 years.

Executive Committee of the AAUP 2019/2020



With the Patron of the AAAUP, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake (Center)

Become a Proud Member of the AAUP

According to Island Ranking 2020; University of Peradeniya is the No.1 University in Sri Lanka.

If you are a graduate of the University of Peradeniya or served on its staff, join the AAUP and

be a proud member. (Membership Application Forms can be downloaded from the

University/AAUP Website- www.pdn.ac.lk/alumni

This year as the AGM was not held owing to the Covid -19 outbreak in the country (and the world over) the AAUP - AGM Newsletter is sent by email to the membership along with other AGM documents.

Please visit the AAUP Website (www.pdn.ac.lk/alumni) for all current and past eNewsletters and AGM Newsletters.

The Editor acknowledges Dr. Sachith Abey Bandara of the Department of Statistics & Computer Science, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya for Typesetting the AAUP AGM Newsletter