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AAUP NEWSLETTER

An Invitation To Join The Alumni Association
Of The University Of Peradeniya. (AAUP)

Prof. Kapila Dahanayake, President/AAUP.

As you may perhaps be aware, ALUMNI is the plural of the latin word ALUMNUS meaning former student. According to the AAUP Constitution, all former students of the following institutions are considered ALUMNI; The Ceylon Medical College (1870-1942); The University College (1921-1942); The University of Ceylon (1942-1967); The University of Ceylon, Peradeniya (1967-1971); The University of Sri Lanka, Peradeniya Campus (1927-1978); and the present University of Peradeniya (1979 onwards). The AAUP is the formalized forum of the alumni of all the said institutions.

The AAUP has a membership of a few hundred; it should, however, be able to proclaim a membership of several thousands. It is my fervent wish as the president to increase the membership to at least one thousand during the current year. One possible step towards a membership drive is to enlarge the parent union to have several chapters so that members can group themselves on a regional basis. The AAUP constitution envisages the formation of regional chapters to facilitate its activities. At present there is only one such chapter, based in Colombo and doing yeomen service to uphold the objectives of the AAUP. The principal objective is to encourage, foster and promote close relations between the university and its alumni and among the alumni themselves.

This invitation is to university alumni, whether registered as members of the AAUP or not, to get themselves organized in principal towns on a provincial basis and formally inaugurate regional chapters in accordance with the AAUP constitution. Interested alumni are welcome to contact and inform us of their desire to form a new chapter so that the parent union may support such ventures by providing them with assistance during the formative stages. The members of the newly established chapters too, could then contribute towards the welfare of the university and its students while at the same time renewing old friendships and making new ones. You can be a life member on payment of Rs. 510/- or an ordinary member with a payment of Rs. 60/- per annum.

Through this first newsletter of the AAUP I am pleased to announce that the inaugural meeting of the Ruhuna Chapter would be held on Sunday 11th August 1996, with the participation of AAUP officials from Peradeniya and Colombo. An interested group of alumni residing in Galle, Hambantota, Matara and Ambalangoda districts are expected to meet on this day and elect the executive members for the Ruhuna Chapter in accordance with the AAUP constitution.

I wish the AAUP all success in its membership drive and look forward to seeing this Newsletter in print regularly for a long time to come!

AAUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1996/97

President: Prof. Kapila Dahanayake, Head/Department of Geology, University of Peradeniya.

Immediate

Past President: Mrs. Vagdevi Fernando, 847/2, Peradeniya Road, Kandy.

Vice Presidents: Dr. Neil Halpe, 36/2, Pitakanda Road, Nittawela, Kandy.

Prof. Savithri Kumar, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya.

Mr. V. Nandakumar, Dept. of Geography, University of Peradeniya.

Prof. Nimal Senanayake, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya.

Mr. Arun Tampoe, Kotugoda, P.O.No.0540.

General Secretary: Mrs. Hema.A. Gamage, Statistics, Information and Publications Unit, University of Peradeniya.

Treasurer: Dr. A.S. Abeyratne, 15, Old Galaha Road, Peradeniya.

Asst. Secretaries: Mr. S.M.U.T.S. Subasinghe, Dept. of Economics, University of Peradeniya.

Mrs. Chitrani Gamage, Main Library, University of Peradeniya

Asst. Treasurer: Mr. Sarath Seneviratne, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, University of Peradeniya.

Editor: Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardena, B12, University Quarters, Meewatura, Peradeniya.

Executive Committee Members:

(elected) Dr. K.B. Herath, Nuclear Medicine Unit, University of Peradeniya.

Mr. Priyantha Kulasekara, 249/6/C, Katugastota Road, Kandy.

Mr. Mahinda Senanayake, 109, Mahamaya Mawatha, Kandy.

Mr. Tissa Wirasinghe, 7, Mahamaya Mawatha, Kandy.

Executive Committee Members:

(appointed) Mr. R.K. Jinit de Silva, 315, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia.

Prof. Manel de S Wijesundera, Dept. of Parasitology, University of Peradeniya.

Mr. Sampath Dissanayake, 58/5, Aruppola, Kandy.

Prof. R.P. Gunawardena, Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya.

Dr. Shantha K. Hennanayake, Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya.

Mr. H.M.D. Herath, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya.

Dr. Wijaya Jayathilake, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture,

University of Peradeniya.

Dr. Athula Pitigala Arachchi, Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya.

Dr. M. Rajapakse, General Hospital, Kandy.

Dr. (Mrs) Indira Silva, Faculty of Vet. Medicine, University of Peradeniya.

Dr. (Mrs) Sumana Wijekoon, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya.

Mr. Malcolm Wijithapala, 5, Methsiri Uyana, Andiambalama (W.P)

Mrs. Lalitha Wirasinghe, 7, Mahamaya Mawatha, Kandy

Representatives from AAUP Colombo Chapter:

Vice President

(ex officio):

Mr. A.R.C. Perera - President/Colombo Chapter

162/1, Hill Street, Dehiwala.

Mr. C.W. Jayasekara - Secretary/Colombo Chapter, 213 Castle Street, Colombo 8.

Mr. D.P. Mendis - 9A, Quarry Road, Mount Lavinia.

Mr. Godwin Perera - 285 B, Stanley Thilakaratne Mawatha, Nugegoda.



CHIT CHAT-Reminiscences, Achievements, Comments....

Contributions Most Welcome - Editor.

MESSAGE OF GOODWILL.

C. Sankarakumaran, Class of 1943.

An Alumni Association is a golden link between the past, present, and future. It can be the rich repository of the conservatism of hoary traditions and the mature wisdom of the past, the minuting and recording of events fashioned and adapted by the present generation and a spring of hope and motivation for the future. It is that golden thread of brotherhood that runs not only laterally but also traditionally from generation to generation. Such an association needs constant renewal and a regular infusion of new blood. This, I believe, is the main theme of the inaugural issue - mainly a membership drive.

Commencing with a core of alumni members, an Alumni Association is really the university's extended family. An alumni newsletter would endeavour to convey to this family campus news, achievements and challenges in a balanced and informative way.

I have no doubt that the founders of our Alumni Association and its present officer-bearers and staff have already set the tone and pace for a very successful service oriented newsletter for the association and for the University of Peradeniya.

THE LAST YEARS OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

P.G. Cooray, Class of 1942.

Those of us who entered University College in 1938 did not realise at the time that we were to be the last batch of undergraduates to be granted external degrees of the University of London. University College was a great place in those last few years. We had three vice-chancellors - Prof R. Marrs, Prof.S.A. Pakeman, Professor of History and very much a military figure, and Prof.Ivor Jenninngs architect of the University of Ceylon, whom I remember as a thin, tall bespectacled figure who strode round the campus with a tin of cigarettes in his hand. There were giants on the staff of the faculties in those days, men whom we respected for their intellectual gifts as well as for their dignified bearing - Lyn Ludowyk, Doric de Souza and H.A. Passe in the English Department; Cuthbert Amarasinghe in Classics; Justin Labrooy and Prof Rai in History; J.H.F. Jayasuriya and B.R. Shenoy in Economics, and the Reverend Lucien Jansz who tried to teach us French and German! In Science there was Kandiah in Chemistry, Mylvaganam in Physics and Kirthisinghe in Zoology.

We spent our time between lectures and tutorials in the Library, which was behind the College House, or chatting in the College house itself, or in the corridors of the Arts Faculty. There were no stoppages of work due to strikes and no demonstrations against the staff; we completed our degrees in the scheduled three or four years. Sporting activities played an important part in our lives and in the life of UC. UC teams took part in all national tournaments and meets. My own sport was Hockey. I still have my colours crest with the letter "UCHC" mounted on a piece of the handsome maroon blazer we were so proud to wear.

Let me end these reminiscences with an event that has stuck in my mind. When war broke out in 1939, some of us jumped on our bikes and rushed to see Prof. Pakeman, saying that we wanted to enlist. He quickly deflated us by saying "Don't be d--- silly! First finish your degrees and then come and see me" - or words to that effect.

Those four years were, indeed, good years, and I consider them to have been some of the best in my life. We had no serious obligations except to get through our exams and justify the hopes our parents had in us. We studied hard and we played hard. Our leisure hours were spent drinking tea and playing bridge, going to Rs.1 seats at the Empire or the Majestic cinemas and eating sausages and mash or mixed grills at the Fountain House in the open air, when we had enough money. We made friends and enjoyed each other's company, irrespective of race and caste or creed; we courted and loved as intensely as we did everything else. I for one, am deeply and sincerely thankful for those four wonderful years that I had the opportunity to spend at the University College, Colombo.



AN APPEAL

The Needy Students' Fund of the AAUP is an "approved charity" (Gazette No: 881 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka) set up to help undergraduates who need financial assistance for their studies and/or extra curricular activities. Alumni are requested to contribute to student welfare activities by endowing (a) Scholarships (initial payment of Rs.25,000/-) and/or (b) Studentships (Rs.5000/- per annum). Further details from Ms. Lalitha Gunawardena, AAUP Editor, English Language Teaching Unit, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya).

News From AAUP Chapters

Colombo

AAUP Colombo Chapter distributed 40 pairs of spectacles among the needy Peradeniya undergraduates at the AAUP AGM held on 31st March 1996 at Peradeniya. We are glad to note that our Colombo friends intend to continue this Vision Camp programme in the future too together with a project that would grant permanent scholarships to needy Peradeniya undergraduates. They also intend to launch a private lottery among members and friends as part of a fund raising campaign. The first prize will be an attractive brand new car. We look forward to attending the Members' Day Family Get-Together in Colombo in October 1996.

Ruhuna

At the inaugural meeting of the Ruhuna Chapter held on 11th August 1996 in Galle, Mr M.Wickremasinghe, Director of Education, Matara was elected as its first President. Mr L.G.Dahanayake was elected as its first Secretary. 22 Alumni members attended this meeting which also elected other office bearers. We wish our Ruhuna Chapter all success.

SOUVENIRS SOUVENIRS SOUVENIRS SOUVENIRS SOUVENIRS

The following Alumni souvenirs are now available at the Sales Counter, University of Peradeniya. Please purchase them and help the AAUP Fund Raising Campaign.

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| T- Shirt (with collar) | Rs. 250/- |
| T- Shirt (without collar) | Rs. 200/- |
| Porcelain Tea Mug | Rs. 100/- |
| Car Sticker | Rs. 50/- |

The application form for AAUP membership is given on the next page. As part of the AAUP membership drive, the AAUP members are kindly requested to enroll as many members as possible. Please make additional copies of the form and give them to your friends who are eligible to be AAUP members. The completed form with the relevant payment must be addressed to Ms.Hema Gamage, AAUP Secretary, Senate Building, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya.