



# AAUP Newsletter

News update of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya

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www.aaupsl.org

March 2008

## AGM OF THE PERADENIYA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.



The Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association of the University of the Peradeniya (AAUP) will be held from 9.30 am on March 23, 2008 at the E.O.E. Pereira Auditorium, Faculty of

Engineering, UoP. Mr. D. K. Rajapaksa, Managing Director, DSI Samson Group (Pvt) Ltd., a distinguished alumnus of the University of Peradeniya, will be the Chief Guest, while Prof. H. Abeygunwardena, Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, has been invited as the Guest of Honour. After the AGM lunch, fellowship and an enjoyable programme has been arranged for AAUP members and other alumni of the University of Peradeniya.

Mr. D. K. Rajapaksa received his B.Sc. Physical Science degree from the UoP (1963-66) and also has a diploma in rubber technology from Germany. He joined his father's company DSI and now he is the Managing Director of DSI Samson Group (Pvt) Ltd. which has now expanded to a diversified company producing a range of rubber products including shoes, tyres, carpets, agricultural and food products

DSI outlets are also found all over the country.

Mr. Rajapakse is a recipient of the prestigious Entrepreneurship of the Year award. He is well known as a successful entrepreneur and a

## Entertainment at the AGM

An alumnus of UoP, Mr. Lal Jayarathna (B.Sc. Special degree in Botany, 1977-1981), Director Development at the National Botanical Gardens Peradeniya, has agreed to provide musical entertainment for the occasion.

## AAUP Art Gallery Project

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. H. Abeygunawardena, has indicated that sufficient space to house the Ian Goonetilleke Art Collection, will be allocated in the new Convention Centre to be constructed at the University of Peradeniya. He has suggested to the Board of Trustees that the Art Gallery Fund collected by the AAUP be used for the maintenance and management of the Art Gallery in the Convention Centre.



## **"Kakul Hatare Illandariya" (The four-legged young man) – A review**

R.R. Samarakoons's latest Sinhala play "The four-legged young man" brings out an unusual story unraveled by a cast of four; the mother, the daughter Madara, Nishanka, the young man who is seeking the hand of the daughter and the monkey who is a house pet.

The rural setting typified by a mud hut with an open veranda adorned the stage at the Ediriweera Sarachchandra Open Air Theatre that late evening on Thursday the 14th of February, 2008. The weather was unexpectedly pleasant and was a welcome relief to all those who anticipated rain at any moment. As always, the atmosphere in the 'Wala' was joyous and electrifying bringing back nostalgic memories of the past.



The opening scene where the mother and the monkey eagerly await the return of Madara from school brings out a monologue by the mother on the past history of the family and that of the pet monkey. The mother ponders about the future of the daughter and even dares to say that if the monkey had not been a beast but a human, she would gladly give away her daughter in marriage to him. The monkey listens and makes gestures as if he understood it all.

With the arrival of the daughter from school and her settling in, a lively dialogue between Madara and the monkey begins with talking, teasing, chasing each other and dancing. The scene changes dramatically with the arrival of Nishanka who comes to chat with Madara and more importantly to propose marriage to her. The monkey becomes very agitated at the turn of events, very vividly shown by gestures and movements. The story continues as Nishanka plots and attempts to drive away and harm the monkey as he smells too close a friendship between Madara and the monkey. The hatred between Nishanka and the monkey ends with Nishanka poisoning the monkey. Madara finds this too much to bear, wailing over the death of her pet she steadfastly refuses to marry Nishanka which brings an end to the play.

The four actors were truly outstanding. The dilemma of the mother who loves and cares for the daughter, the intended son-in law and the orphan monkey whom she has brought up, is very well portrayed by Ratnasheila Perera. Wijaya Nandasiri gives life to the character of frustrated but patient Nishanka. Madara, the pretty daughter who is torn between her childhood admirer and her equally affectionate monkey is played by Anusha Dissanayake. The outstanding performance of Saman Hemaratna who plays the role of the monkey is exceptional. The gestures of the primate and its typical behaviour are very accurately and vividly portrayed by him.

The play brought mixed reactions among the viewers. There were some who thought the theme unnatural and the gestures and the antics of the monkey boring. Others, like me, loved it as it portrayed the close evolutionary relationships between man and ape amply demonstrated by the story and the actions.

Jayanthi Edirisinghe  
Professor of Applied Zoology,  
Faculty of Science.

### **AAUP Chapter News**

The AGM of the AAUP Colombo Chapter was held on February 24th 2008. The following office bearers were elected: Dr. Priyalal Dias - President, Mr. S. M. Cgnaratne – Treasurer and Ms. Nalini de Silva – Secretary. Five members from the parent Association attended the AGM.

### **AAUP Vice-President wins major entrepreneur award**



Vagdevi Fernando, Chairman of Commercial Credit Ltd (CCL), receiving the Sri Lanka Entrepreneur of The Year 2006 Gold Award for the Extra Large Category Central Province from the Deputy Mayor of Nuwara Eliya.

### **CIMA-AAUP Career Guidance Programme**

A Career Guidance Programme was conducted on January 19th '08, by CIMA at the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, in association with the AAUP. About eighty students participated in the interactive programme. The program emphasized the importance of skills development to improve employability of graduates. Questions asked at interviews, communication skills and the importance of team work were discussed and demonstrated in a practical manner.

This is the first occasion that a woman has won this prestigious award. Vagdevi Fernando also received the Silver Award at the Unity Award Ceremony in recognition for her contribution to Peace and Social Responsibility. She is a former President and presently a Vice President of the AAUP. The AAUP congratulates Vagdevi on her outstanding achievements.

Ms. Roshini Wirasingha, Manager/CIMA, Kandy coordinated the programme. Resource persons were Mr. Marcelline Alexander and Jeremy Cruz of Unilever Ltd.

### **Convocation 2007/08**

The AAUP distributed a brochure including an AAUP membership application form during the Convocation on March 5th '08, to inform new graduates of the existence of the AAUP, its objectives and some of its activities. The information was provided in English/Sinhala/Tamil. This activity was an attempt made to attract new members by offering free membership for one year, to those who graduated this year, provided they submitted the completed application form. About 150 new members from among these graduates have been registered as AAUP members. AAUP souvenirs were also available for sale during convocation day.

### **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)



### Training of Trainers Counseling Workshop II

Training of Senior Trainers from schools in the Kandy district

was held on the 7th and 8th February 2008 at the PGIS, UoP. Twenty seven of the thirty trainers who participated were Peradeniya alumni. Mr. D. M. Jayawardene, the Additional Director of Education, Central Province, commented these workshops, gave schoolteachers an opportunity to interact with resource persons from the University. The participant acknowledged the relevance and high quality of the lectures/discussions. The AAUP appreciated the dedication of the resource persons, Dr. BMK Perera and Mrs. Arosha Perera (Career Guidance Unit), Dr. D. Karunanayake (Faculty of Arts) and Mr. SD Sugathapala (Faculty of Arts) and Dr. Shavindra Dias (Faculty of Medicine). The workshop was sponsored by DFCC Bank, Kandy; Workshop co-ordinators

### AAUP Programme for International Women's Day

The AAUP organized a special programme for women on March 8th to mark International Women's Day this year. A "Breast Cancer Awareness" programme was conducted at the Dept. of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Kanishka de Silva, Consultant Surgeon (Cancer), General Hospital, Kandy was the



The programme featured a lecture intended to increase awareness of the three most common causes of cancer in Sri Lanka, one of which was breast cancer in women. Dr. de Silva further emphasized the important role played by women in Sri Lanka. He lamented the fact that facilities for detection of breast cancer, are sadly lacking in the government hospitals.

He told the participants to convey the message that more facilities should be made available for women. The program concluded with individual instructions for carrying out a routine self-breast examination. Programme Coordinator was Dr. Anula Kariyawasam, Faculty of Medicine, who was assisted by Dr. Ransimala Nayakarathne, Dr. Nuwanthi Medagoda, Dr. Nisansala Nagodawithana, Dr. Anushika Chandraratne and Dr. Indeewari Wansapura. The program was sponsored by A. Baur & Co., agents for Roche Pharmaceuticals.

### IELTS Program 2008

This year too the AAUP Extension and Continuing Education Committee organized a program to assist those sitting for the IELTS examination. The



program comprising ten lessons was conducted by Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardene, while Mrs. Daisy Seneviratne and Mr. Sarath Seneviratne were the coordinators. More than 30 participants enrolled as new members of the AAUP. The program which was initiated as an 'Alumni welfare project' several years ago, has led to the collection of valuable IELTS resource material at the PGIM library, Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya. AAUP members have ready access to this collection and may contact Mrs. Daisy Seneviratne at the Library (081 2385017). All resource persons worked on a

With best compliments from.....

