



# AAUP Newsletter

News update of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya

aaup@pdn.ac.lk

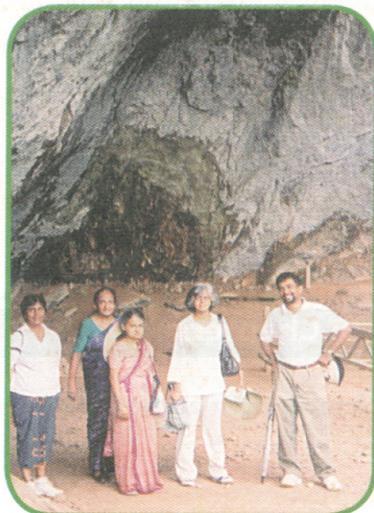
www.aaupsl.org

November 2007

## AAUP Trip Pahiyangala

The annual trip of the AAUP this year was to the Pahiyangala caves near Bulathsinhala. On July 21st 2007, we proceeded by bus to Kalutara via Kegalla, Ruwanwella and Avissawella, passing through the rich green vegetation of the wet zone. Rambutans were in season and baskets full of large bright red juicy rambutans were for sale on the road side.

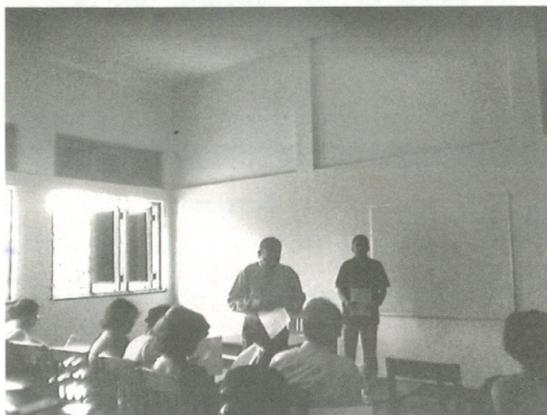
At Bulathsinhala we visited the Pahiyangala cave. The Chinese scholar-bhikku Fa-Hsien is believed to have resided here when he visited Sri Lanka in the 5th century. This is also the site where remains of the prehistoric cave dweller from 37,000 years ago (Pahiyangala Manawakaya) of the Neanderthal era were discovered, during excavation by the Archaeological Dept. The open cave, reached by a flight of stone steps, is very large. Situated at a high elevation it commands a beautiful view all around. The top of the cave is said to resemble the hood of a cobra. A 40 ft statue of the reclining Buddha has been built more recently, at one side of the cave.



A sumptuous lunch at the Rubber Research Institute in Agalawatte, had been organized by Dr. Asoka Nugawela, Director/RRI (an alumnus of Peradeniya) for AAUP members, after which a relaxing evening was spent at Mermaid Hotel in Kalutara. The following day some members visited Richmond Castle, a large mansion constructed at the beginning of the last century by Mr. Arthur de Silva Padikara. The beautiful garden with flowering trees and marble statues on pedestals was appreciated by all. Lunch at the Mermaid Hotel was followed by the return trip via Colombo. The entire AAUP trip was enlivened by the efforts of enthusiastic and apparently untiring AAUP singers! It was altogether a lovely trip. The young and not so young AAUP members talked, sang, laughed and got to know each other better. Thank you committee of the AAUP, for a job well done..!

Ms. Pat Jayatilleke, Kandy

## Spoken Tamil Programme



The inaugural class was held on 2nd July 2007 in the presence of Dr. T Manoharan, Head Department of Tamil, Prof Savitri Kumar/President /AAUP and the group of participants. Classes are held every Monday from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the Faculty of Arts. A group of 40, made up of senior and junior academic staff, administrative staff and research assistants, participate enthusiastically in the highly interactive classes. Classes are conducted by Dr. S. Maheshwaran, Dept. of Tamil, Faculty of Arts. He is assisted by Mr. Sudharshan.

## NEW at the Faculty of Engineering

Three cooperation agreements were signed recently between the Faculty of Engineering and Kelani Cables Ltd., Orient Electric Systems Pvt Ltd., Tokyo Cement (Lanka) Ltd. The Dept. of Electrical and Electronic Engineering will carry out joint activities including undergraduate and postgraduate research in collaboration with Kelani Cables, Ltd., and Orient

Electric Systems Pvt. Ltd. The resources required will be supplied by the companies. The Tokyo Cement (Lanka) Ltd. will provide funds and other resources for research in the Dept. of Civil Engineering.

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## ' AlumNite'

'AlumNite', was held at 6.30 p.m. on 24. 06 2007 at the E. O. E. Pereira theatre at the UoP.

Three activities were presented during the evening.

1. Members of the DramSoc, presented The Plaza Suite, directed by Nissansala Jayaweera a one act play about a bride who locks herself up in a hotel bathroom on the evening of the wedding reception. A sensible mother, a hysterical father, a stubborn bride and a cool groom kept the audience entertained.

2. A dance programme was produced in collaboration with the Sri Lanka India Cultural Association (SLICA) by Samanthi Thilakaratne and Prashadanie Kumaraswamy

with students from the Kalasamparna Dancing School, Kandy. Some dances presented were: ALARIPPU, BO SHAMBO, SHAMA THOLLI and folk dances from Sri Lankan villages. The dances were colourful and expertly performed.

3. Storms Within, a Sinhala one act play, was a production of Suli, Faculty of Arts, directed by Lakshantha Bryan De Silva. The witty interaction between two individuals and their psychiatrist kept the audience interested.

The AAUP thanks SLICA, DramSoc, Suli, the producers and participants who helped to make this evening a success.

## News from AAUP Chapters

The 10th AGM of the Ruhuna Chapter was held on 21st October 2007 at the Galle Service Club.

## Congratulations to Distinguished Alumni

Mr. Mahendra Amarasuriya, is the new International President of the Lions' Clubs (International) Organization. He has had a distinguished career as a banker and corporate leader.

Dr. Jayantha Dhanapala, is the new President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. He is a well-known diplomat, peace-builder and disarmament expert.

## AAUP International Film Week

The AAUP held an International Film Week from Sept. 3 – 7th 2007 to contribute to cultural activities in the campus. The following films were screened “Hashoman” (Japanese), “Brother” (Russian), “Not one Less” (Chinese), “Lagaan” (Indian), and “Baran” (Iranian).

Attendance was poor during the week, and the staff and student communities showed little interest in the event. University Student Union leaders objected to the event, because student tickets were priced at Rs. 15/= instead of Rs.10/=.

## Counselling Workshop for School Teachers



The AAUP workshop on ‘Counselling Skills for School Teachers (Grade 6-10)’ was held on the 17th September 2007 at the Faculty of Science. The program was organized to reach out to and assist alumni in schools and in the general community. Teachers (25) in the Kandy district who participated acknowledged that

the workshop helped to improve their counselling skills, and their understanding of the problems faced by young students. The teachers appreciated the quality of the lectures and time management of the program. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the UoP, Prof. A. Wickramasinghe, awarded the certificates to the participants, and commented on the value of the workshop to school teachers who play an important role in guiding young students.

The AAUP appreciates the commitment and assistance of the Resource Persons, Dr. B. M. K. Perera, Director, Career Guidance Unit (CGU), Ms. Arosha Perera, CGU, Dr. D. Karunanayake (Dept. of Psychology) and Mr. S. D. Sugathapala (Dept. of Education) and sponsorship of the workshop by the Bank of Ceylon, Peradeniya and the DFCC Bank, Kandy. Prof. Chandani Perera and Ms. Arosha Perera co-ordinated the workshop. chandani@pdn.ac.lk

## AAUP Office Bearers 2007/08

*President: Savitri Kumar, Gen. Sec: Hema Gamage Vice Presidents: Anula Kariyawasam, Thula Wijewardena, Chandani Perera, Vagdevi Fernando, Mahinda Senanayake Asst. Secs: Thushari Hewapathirana, H. M. C. Himali Treasurer: R. M. P. B. Rathnayake Asst. Treasurer: Sarath Seneviratne Editor: Lalitha Gunawardena Committee Members: S. A. Kulasooriya, Anura Dantanarayane, Ananda Dharmaratne, Manoj Alawathukotuwa, B. G. Ranathunga, Arosha Perera, Chandrani Gamage, Ashoka Dissanayake*

## Career Assistance Programme for Non academic Staff



A Career Assistance Programme for non-academic staff of the UoP was conducted from September – October

2007. The objective was to motivate the staff to carry out their work efficiently, and be aware of the responsibilities. Five interactive lecture/discussion sessions were held on a weekly basis. Resource persons were Dr. B.M.K. Perera, CGU; Dr. Danesh Karunanayake, Faculty of Arts; Dr. H.M.R.D. Herath, Faculty of Arts; Ms. Arosha Perera, CGU; and Prof. D.B. Nugegoda, Faculty of Medicine. The Coordinators were Ms. Arosha Perera and Prof. Thula Wijewardana, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. The programme was organized jointly by the CGU of the UoP and the AAUP.

## Sir Ivor Jennings Hall at UoP



A new residential hall for undergraduates has been constructed at a scenic location in Upper Hanthane. The Council of UoP has decided to name the new building Sir Ivor Jennings Hall in honour of the first Vice Chancellor of the University of Ceylon.

## Activities for 2007/08

January	Second Counselling workshop - Training of Trainers
February	*Fund raising and awareness - Drama at Open Air Theatre *Newsletter
March	Breast Cancer Awareness Programme for Women
March 25th	AAUP AGM

AAUP contact address: Senate Building, UoP

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