



News Bulletin

The Alumni Association of the University of
Peradeniya (GTA & Suburbs)

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Message from the Board of Management



Back to Hantana 2016

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News Bulletin Contacts:

- Ravi Jayasinghe
416.748.2209 | drvkj2004@hotmail.com
- Kamal Premarathne
647.667,7693 | kamal.priyantha@gmail.com
- Samantha Ekanayake
416.241.6869 |
samanthikaems@yahoo.com
- Jayalath Samarakkody
647.293.8793 | jayalaths@hotmail.com

With the weather turning bright and warm trust everyone is enjoying the beautiful summer.

Congratulations to the kids who are finishing high school and also those graduated from the higher education institutes. We are proud of you and the parents.

Following the months of hard work, we held 'Back to Hantana 2016', our engagement and entertainment event successfully in April 2016. It certainly surpassed our expectation and we were able to share the 'Peradeniya Spirit' with those who attended.

The summer will feature, the annual BBQ organized by the Pera Canadians in early July and Annual Inter University Alumni Cricket Festival in late July.

We are hopeful of meeting the newcomers in August/September. Another possibility being studied now is an exciting children's activity lead by children for the children if the work progresses to our plan.

We continue with our membership drive in the meantime and you should put up your hand if you have still not enrolled. Our website is now featured in AAUP main website.

We will strive to have one major event for the year with a few other activities as the resource and the community calendar permits.

Look forward to your continued engagement and participation.

Let us continue to spread Peradeniya Spirit!



Engagement and Entertainment Event of the Year

Next Generation



Back to Hantana – 2016

The 'Back to Hantana 2016' was the real taste of Peradeniya Spirit for even those who have not been to Peradeniya. This was one of the many encouraging comments we received from an attendee of the event. The alumni family together with Dr. Jayalath Manorathna supported by the orchestra thrilled the crowd with a scintillating performance. Very reluctantly we had to make a special effort to appeal to the participants to go home. Though we had an initial hiccup with the sounds, the rest of the show got going without participants noticing.



**Parapet Scenes
Then and Now**



Back to Hantana – 2016

The display of university history at the entrance, a creative stage deco depicting famous parapet wall of the University and the food provided just the right ambience for the event. We knew if we had more space attendees would have been at ease. Our decision to provide glimpse of what we do to the public received much appreciation. Let us hope those could not make it in April will not miss our events next time.

We like to extend our appreciation to the audience in attendance.



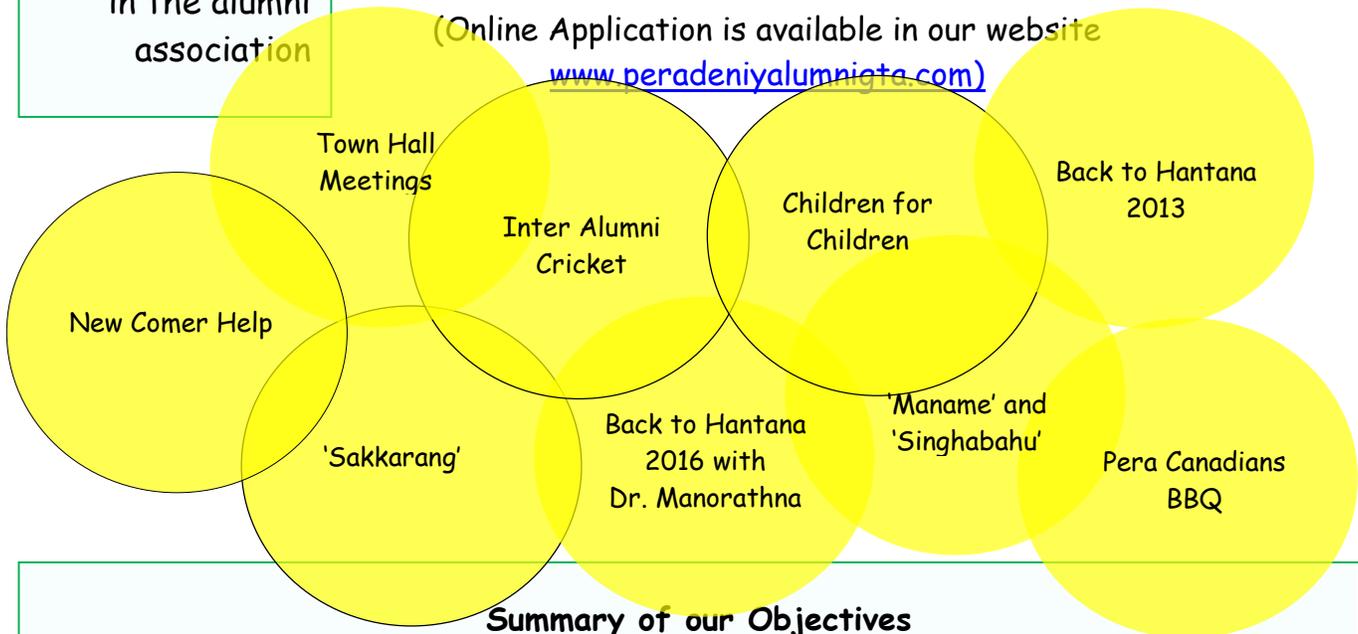
Dr. Manorathna and Chorus

Membership Drive

Without you
there is no life
in the alumni
association

We continue to say **without you** there is no life in the alumni association.
We know there are over 1,500 Peradeniya alumni in GTA+ area.
We have now created the umbrella for you.
We request you to come under it.
We have articulated the following objectives to guide us.
We hope they will guide us above and beyond all the differences.
We want to promote Peradeniya spirit and you are our strength.
We therefore look forward to **your enrolment and participation.**

(Online Application is available in our website
www.peradeniyalumngta.com)



Summary of our Objectives

- Renewing university ties and foster networking representing Peradeniya University and work collaboratively with other Peradeniya alumni chapters, promoting mutually beneficial networking with other Sri Lankan and Canadian university alumnus.
- Supporting academic goals of Peradeniya University, creating windows for postgraduate education opportunities and enhancement of standards of education, promoting University of Peradeniya brand
- Supporting professional and personal development of the members, Peradeniya graduate newcomers, collaborate with other similar organizations
- Recognizing and felicitating outstanding achievements of Peradeniya alumni members and promote Sri Lankan culture.

However this principle does not aim at restricting individual choices.

University News

Professor Saluka R. Kodituwakku Dean - Faculty of Science



Professor Kodituwakku, the Head of Department, Statistics and Computer Science, was appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Science replacing Professor Anura Wickramasinghe from May 2016.

He earned BSc (Hons) Mathematics from the University of Peradeniya in 1992 and completed MSc in Computer Science at the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand in 1995. Later in 2004 he read PhD in Computer Science at the RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

University of Peradeniya Convocation - 2015

The General Convocation - 2015 of the University of Peradeniya was held on 26th May, 2016 in the Gymnasium of the University in two Sessions.

International Conference on Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders, Oral Cancer, Smokeless Tobacco, Areca Nut

The Centre for Research in Oral Cancer, Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya is organizing the 2nd International Conference on Smokeless Tobacco, Areca nut and Oral Cancer on 2nd July 2016 at the CPC hall, Faculty of Dental Sciences.

Dr. JM Jayasundara Bandara, Deputy Director General (Dental Services), Ministry of Health will grace the occasion as the chief guest and Prof RL Wijeyeweera, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya will be the guest of honor. This is the second conference of this nature to be organized in Sri Lanka.

Invitation to the Alumni Cricketers

Alumni Cricket practices held every Saturday from 7 am at
44, Eastbourne Drive, Brampton, On, L6T 2B2
(Next to Earncliffe Recreation Centre)

If you are interested please contact:
Chamila immediately at **416-705-8983** for details



Prof. Vishwa Warnapala

Prof. W. A. Vishwa Warnapala, United People's Freedom Alliance's (UPFA) General Secretary and former minister passed away on February 21st.

He was 79-years-old at the time of his demise.

The last rites of late General Secretary of United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and former cabinet minister Prof. Vishwa Warnapala was held in Borella on February 28th, 2016.

Born on December 26, 1936, Prof. Warnapala entered politics from the SLFP and was appointed a National List MP in 1994. He also served as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Higher Education.

Prof. Warnapala was also an author, scholar and political analyst. He first earned a B.A. (Ceylon) in Economics with Honours in 1964.

In 1967, he earned his M.A. From Pittsburg, USA. Three years later he obtained his PhD at the University of Leeds, England. In 1986, he was the Professor of Political Science and Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Peradeniya.



Dr. D.B. Nihalsinghe

Dr. **Diongu Badaturuge Nihalsingha** (known as *D. B. Nihalsinghe*, 27 May 1939 - 21 April 2016), was an accomplished Sri Lankan Film Director, Cinematographer, Editor and Producer. He was noted for his versatility: as a film cameraman, as a film director, as a (pioneering) television director, as an administrator, and as a teacher. He is a pioneer who introduced professional television production to Sri Lanka (in 1979), commencing with Sri Lanka's and South Asia's first color tele-drama, *Dimuthu Muthu*.

He was the founding Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Sri Lanka's National Film Corporation and a distinguished alumni of the then University of Ceylon, Peradeniya (presently University of Peradeniya). He is the only Sri Lankan who has been conferred Life Fellowship of the Society of Motion picture and Television Engineers USA, the oldest film organization in the world, established in 1915. The Society determines film and television standards worldwide.

His best known work is 'Welikathra', Sri Lanka's first and South Asia's second Cinemascope film, included as among the ten best Sri Lankan films awarded the Sri Lanka Presidential award, while *Maldeniye Simiyon* is also noted for the award for its actress Anoja Weerasinghe as Best Actress at the 16th New Delhi International Film Festival. Two more of his films, *Ridei Nimanaya* and *Kelimala* are also noteworthy, with the latter winning the highest number of national awards at that time.



Professor Laxman (Lucky) Amaratunge, BSc, PhD

Professor Laxman (Lucky) Amaratunga is a well-respected professional in the field of mining engineering in Canada.

Lucky was graduated from the University of Ceylon (Peradeniya) in 1969 as a Physical Science Graduate. He started his career at the Department of Geological Survey and Sri Lanka. After several years at Geological Survey, Lucky moved to UK where he received his honours degree in Mining Engineering at the Camborne School of Mines with a first class honours in 1974. He then moved to the University of Birmingham where he obtained his PhD in Mineral Processing in 1978.

After completing the doctoral studies, he started his first job as a research fellow at Birmingham from 1978 to 1980.

Lucky, with his family immigrated to Canada in 1980 and initially obtained a position as a research Associate at the University of Toronto. In 1981, he took up a position as a Process Engineer at the Carol Lake Pelletization Plant of the Iron Ore Company of Canada Ltd. In 1984, he joined Laurentian University in Sudbury ON and became a full professor in 1993.

Since 1984, Professor Amaratunga, has carried out important research in the area of tailings management, backfill and environmental stewardship. He has received several awards throughout his long career: In 2003, Professor Amaratunga was recognized with Laurentian University's Teaching Excellence Award. In 2007 he received the Teck Cominco Environmental Award for his research activities in processing, utilizing and recycling of waste materials in the mining cycle.

He is an active member of CIM and in 1997 was awarded the prestigious CIM Fellowship for his outstanding contributions to the CIM and CMP, and was awarded the CIM Distinguished Lecturer for 1999-2000.

Professor Amaratunga, became a distinguished recipient of the 2012 Canadian Mineral Processors Society (CMP) Lifetime Achievement Award for his "outstanding contributions to the Canadian mining, metallurgical and processing industries in the areas of education, research in management of mine waste, environmental technology transfer, and the CMP and MetSoc Societies of CIM (The Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum)."

Professor Amaratunga's research activities are in the areas of: environmental aspects of minerals industry, waste processing and utilization, application of nanomaterials in waste processing, solid - liquid separation, interfacial phenomena, mineral processing, and sulphide dust explosions. He has numerous international publications in these areas of research.

The full and productive life and career of Professor Amaratunga, his high level of technical competence, keen interest and enthusiasm on matters of environmental concern, especially in the mining industry, social responsibility, courage and determination to face adversities and challenges, cordial and cooperative relationship with students and professional colleagues and a happy family life all combine to make him a role model for the younger students and researchers who will follow him in the years to come.

(In 2005 Professor Amaratunga was diagnosed with a neuro-muscular disease, which forced him to use a motorized wheel chair for mobility.)

Pera Canadian BBQ

Saturday July 9th, 2016

10 am onwards

Millikan Park, Area A
4325 McCowan Road
Scarborough, ON
M1V 1V2

Please join us with the families
to have a fun-filled day

Join and enrich Peradeniya Spirit!

What's Coming

Annual
Inter Alumni Cricket Tournament
and family Event

Saturday 30 July 2016

From 8 am

Next to Earnsccliffe
Recreation Centre
44, Eastbourne Drive, Brampton,
On, L6T 2B2

Join us to support our team and
network with the rest

Future Events

1. Networking event for Peradeniya newcomers –
August /September 2016
2. Children for Children Event
3. Town Hall Meetings

Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (GTA & Suburbs)

Board of Management

President: Dhammika Premaratna (Science)
Vice Presidents: Veera Vijenthira (Engineering), Chamila Rajapakse (Science)
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Assistant Secretary: Upul Herath (Engineering)
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