



Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya
Greater Toronto Area and Suburbs

Newsletter

February 2024 Issue

"Sarvasva Locanam Sasthram"

Knowledge is the Eye unto All



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Board of Management 2023/2025

Board of Directors

President: Ranjith Perera (Eng)
Past-President: Pubudu Edirisinghe (Eng)
Secretary: Duminda Randeniya (Eng)
Vice-President: Nalaka Jayamaha (Eng)
Vice-President: Xavier Fernando (Eng)
Treasurer: Priyantha Kulasekara (Agri)
Asst. Secretary: Chatumal Perera (Eng)
Editor: Upul Herath (Eng)
Editor: Kushalya Fernando (Arts)

Executive Officers

Anusha Thilakarachchi (Sc)
Hasintha Kekulawela (Dental)
Chamila Rajapakse (Sc)
Nalliah Thyabaran (Eng)
Chathura Liyanage (Eng)
Asanka Jayawardena (AHS)
Chandana Basnayake (Sc)
Kamal Munasinghe (Eng)
Jayalath Samarakkody (Sc)
Rajitha Senanayaka (Sc)
Dhammika Premarathna (Sc)

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Message from the Board of Management (BOM)

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

With day today's life coming back to normalcy, we expect 2024 to be a year of more engagements and activities. The newly elected Board of Management (BOM) is geared up and looking at organizing some repetitive and new events for this year. While thanking all alumni families who participated in our events organized in 2023, we encourage every one of you to actively participate and contribute with your talent and expertise to everything in 2024 as well. Also, we would like to warmly welcome all our Peradeniya alumni who live in the GTA and suburbs who are yet to join us. We are confident that together we can make a positive impact on the growth of our association.

In June last year, we had an enjoyable outdoor event, a walk on the Bruce Trail. Participants enjoyed a 5km and 8km walk, then came together at the last stage to complete it as a team in the park. We expect to organize another active walk in 2024.

The Inter University Alumni Cricket Tournament and Family Get-together was held on Saturday, July 8th, 2023. Our Team Peradeniya consisted of numerous energetic young faces who went undefeated all throughout the competition and became co-champions amidst unfavourable weather conditions. We would like to see them performing well again this year for Team Peradeniya.

Despite the extenuating circumstances during COVID-19 pandemic that prevented us from holding our General Meeting in 2021, we held it on November 4th, 2023. Following the meeting, we organized our very first 'Hanthana Night' family get-together and dinner dance at the same venue. It was another extraordinarily successful, unique Peradeniya style event and received lots of remarkably positive feedback from participants. We look forward to having another memorable experience in 2025 as well. As we mentioned during the event, we have decided to contribute \$1,400.00 to the University of Peradeniya 'Wala Greenroom Project' from the proceeds of 'Hanthana Night'.

The West-end Townhall Gathering and Family Get-together is scheduled on Saturday, March 2nd in Burlington, while the unique Peradeniya-for-Peradeniya variety entertainment program 'Hanthana Bells & Whistles' is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th. More details can be found inside the newsletter. Please ensure to mark these important dates in your calendar, you don't want to miss them! Let's all continue to work together and show *Peradeniya Spirit*!



Upcoming Events >>

- >> 'Hanthana Bells & Whistles': Saturday April 6th; stay tuned for details!
- >> West-end Townhall Gathering: March 2nd in Burlington.

We welcome and encourage contributions from alumni and their families, including children, for publishing in the Newsletter. Please see guidelines on the last page.

Noticeboard

Upcoming Event >> 'Hanthana Bells & Whistles'

Due to multiple reasons, we have decided to postpone 'Back to Hanthana' - 2024 to Q3 of this year to present another high-quality edition of our flagship event.

HOWEVER, fantastic news >> We're holding 'Hanthana Bells & Whistles' on Saturday April 6th - a UNIQUE 'Peradeniya for Peradeniya' variety entertainment program!

With a novel concept, 'Hanthana Bells & Whistles' will contain various segments of arts >> songs, stage drama, cinema, teledrama, poetry & novels >> created by renowned Peradeniya alumni over many generations, extracted and creatively developed by us to best suit the event. Stay tuned, more details to follow!

Date/Time: Saturday April 6th from 6.30pm to 11:00pm, Location: Will be announced soon.

Attendees: Alumni families including children

Please mark the date in your schedule and cascade the message to fellow Peradeniya alumni!

Upcoming Event >> West-end Townhall Gathering - Burlington



Our first Townhall Gathering in 2024 in **BURLINGTON** - focusing our alumni on the West-end of GTA!

❖ **Date: Saturday, March 2nd**

❖ **Venue: St. John's Anglican Church (2464 Dundas St, Burlington, ON)**

>> We're already in touch with our alumni with details.

Membership News

- ❖ Alumni members can e-transfer 2024 membership fees to the association via: peraalumngta@gmail.com (Full \$20, Associate \$10, Life \$200)
- ❖ Your active participation and engagement are essential to sustain and grow our Association.
- ❖ **Please spread the word among alumni newcomers in GTA and suburbs to join the Association. Joining is simple through the online form on our website: <https://www.peradeniyaalumngta.com/index.php/join-us/>**
Or simply scan the QR code to fill in the form on your mobile:



- ❖ For any membership related question, please contact: peraalumngta@gmail.com

Love playing cricket for Peradeniya alumni team....?

- ❖ Every summer our alumni cricket team plays in the Inter-University Alumni Cricket Tournament (held in Brampton in past years).
- ❖ If you want to explore playing for the alumni team in 2024 summer tournament, please contact Dhammika (phone: 647-924-7592 / email: rmdp123@hotmail.com)



General Meeting - 2023

As announced, the GM-2023 was successfully held on Saturday, November 4th at Versailles Convention Centre in Mississauga.

Dhammika Premarathna, outgoing Secretary, commenced proceedings by welcoming the attendees to General Meeting (GM) - 2023. He communicated that a GM was due in November 2021, which had to be postponed twice due to Covid-19 situation and prevailing health guidelines.

Dhammika as outgoing Secretary presented the secretary's report. In his report he highlighted past activities, challenges faced during the last four years and achievements despite several restrictions due to Covid-19. Outgoing Treasurer, Nalaka Ranweera, presented the financial report. Due to the pandemic and restricted activities the BOM decided not to collect membership fees until 2024. Since activities were begun, the members were requested to pay the membership fee from 2024. Outgoing Secretary Dhammika presented the last GM minutes to the participants. Secretary's report, financial report and last GM minutes were all duly approved by the forum.

Pubudu Edirisinghe, outgoing President, in his speech highlighted all the activities conducted during the past four years, with specific references to activities focused on newcomers to Canada, donation to the food bank during the pandemic etc. He also highlighted Alumni membership growth, financial health of the organization and the registration of the association as a non-profit organization in Ontario. As communicated already, the BOM has decided to support financially the renovation of Prof. Ediriweera Sarathchandra Open Air theatre ('Wala'). He commended all the support the association received from the membership and the well wishes and the unity and camaraderie among the membership.

Dhammika then invited Roshan Rajapakse, representative from Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya - Ottawa, to officiate the election and transition to the new BOM.

Only 20 nominations, including the 7 members recommended by the outgoing BOM per Constitution, had been received by the deadline. Roshan announced the names of members to be served as Board of Directors and Executive Officers, and declared the nominees as duly elected in the absence of any objections. Both Board of Directors and Executive Officers for the term 2023/2025 were duly approved by the forum (**names indicated on the front page of this Newsletter**). As per the Constitution, the BOM consists of 21 members. With only 20 members elected at the GM 2023, the new BOM obtained a mandate from the GM to elect the 21st member to the BOM in due course.

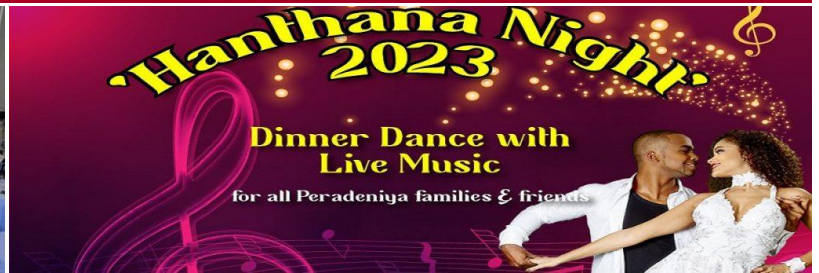


The newly elected President, Ranjith Perera, had to miss the GM due to a family emergency. On behalf of him, the newly elected Secretary, Duminda Randeniya, addressed the membership and delivered the acceptance speech. He thanked the previous BOM's for their dedication for progressively elevating the AAUP – GTA and Suburbs to its present status over the last four years. He emphasized active participation and constructive feedback from members are essential to further progress the Association in the next two years.

Dhammika, whilst thanking Roshan for officiating the selection of the BOM, thanked the alumni participating in the GM, and the alumni who held specific roles in the GM to make it a success. Dhammika pronounced conclusion of proceedings and adjourned the GM for 2023/25 session.

Let's thank the outgoing BOM and congratulate the new BOM and wish success in the Association's activities in 2023/2025 period.

'Hanthana Night' - Family Get-Together & Dinner Dance



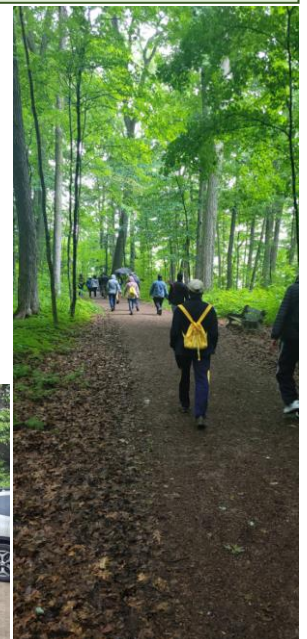
The inaugural 'Hanthana Night' family get-together & dinner dance was held on Saturday, November 4th at Versailles Convention Centre in Mississauga (after conclusion of GM-2023).

The idea of a family get-together in a dinner dance setting following the GM was first conceived as far back as in 2019, although we could not realize it till this year due to Covid-19 situation. 'Hanthana Night' is to complement the day of the GM with an evening of entertainment and engagement among alumni families and friends. 'Hanthana Night' will occur every two years with the GM.



Everyone enjoyed the memorable evening on November 4th, with live music, food, drinks, and dancing! Very happy that we are receiving encouraging feedback from participants on the first 'Hanthana Night'!

Bruce Trail Hike – A serene moment with nature....



We organized an excursion on June 24th, 2023, to Bruce Trail for a hike. To cater everyone, we arranged two hike options - 8km & 5km. Our alumni enjoyed this unique experience for the family in a serene summer environment. We will continue to organize outdoor summer events like this.

Peradeniya Alumni Cricket Team crowned Co-Champions!



The annual Inter-Alumni Cricket Tournament and Family Get Together was held on Saturday, July 8th, 2023, at Batsman Community Park in Brampton. As usual, this vibrant summer event was filled with not just the passion for cricket, but also the cheer, music, and food at alumni tents. The spirited atmosphere at Peradeniya tent was second to none!

Although the day started with a fairly good weather for another great tournament, the intermittent rain towards the end prevented holding the final match between our team and the University of Colombo alumni team. A great final was missed! Accordingly, Peradeniya and Colombo teams were awarded with Co-Championship of the 2023 tournament.

BIG CONGRATULATIONS to our team for the great display of cricket, dedication, commitment as well as the sportsmanship



Cricket Dinner - 2023



Cricket Dinner is an annual event organized by the Board of Management as a tradition to appreciate our alumni cricket team. Cricket Dinner-2023 was held on Saturday, March 4th, 2023, at Frank McKechnie community center in Mississauga. As usual, this family evening was filled with warm company, food, and music.

We have earned a good reputation among other alumni for our on-field and off-field conduct, and we can all be proud about it. Let us give a round of applause to 'TEAM PERADENIYA'!



❖ [Visit of the High Commissioner for Canada in Sri Lanka and Maldives](#)

His Excellency Eric Walsh, the High Commissioner of Canada to Sri Lanka and the Maldives visited the University of Peradeniya on the 25th of September 2023. The visit encompassed a series of key engagements. This visit served as a significant step in strengthening the ties between the University of Peradeniya and Canada, fostering potential collaborations, and enhancing international connections for both institutions.

❖ [University of Peradeniya Takes the Lead in Environmental Sustainability with Waste Management Trainer Training Program and Community Outreach](#)

The Center for Environmental Sustainability (CES), the International Relations Office (InRO), and the Department of Botany at the University of Peradeniya, along with the Kandy Municipal Council (KMC), jointly organized a community awareness program in Kandy city on waste management to commemorate the International Week 2023 of the University of Peradeniya. The primary objective was to empower global citizens on environmental sustainability.

❖ [Training Workshop for Schoolchildren on “Empowering Global Citizens: Shaping a Sustainable Future Amidst Climate Crisis “](#)

The Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES), jointly with the International Relations Office (InRO) of the University of Peradeniya, conducted a training workshop to commemorate the International Week 2023 of the University of Peradeniya. Nearly 130 schoolchildren and 10 school-teachers from several schools attended the program held on December 1st, 2023. The sessions were conducted at the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS) and the EOE Pereira Theatre of the Faculty of Engineering.

❖ [University of Peradeniya Enters into agreement with JICA for the JICA Chair Programme](#)

The University of Peradeniya and the JICA Sri Lanka Office in Colombo signed an official agreement for the upcoming JICA Chair programme. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice Chancellor, and Mr. Yamada Tetsuya, Chief Representative of JICA Sri Lanka Office, signed the agreement on October 3rd, 2023. Under the JICA Chair programme, participants can anticipate a series of brief, intensive lectures delivered by eminent Japanese lecturers. These sessions will cover a spectrum of topics, including Japan’s development experiences in politics, economics, public administration, law, and other relevant disciplines. Over 500 participants have already registered for the programme, which has garnered significant interest.

❖ [Industry Day 2023 – Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya](#)

The Science-Industry Interaction Cell (SIIC), the main industry outreach arm of the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya together with the Career Guidance Unit (CGU), Faculty of Science, Society of Industrial Relations and Entrepreneurship Development (SIREN), and Applied Sciences Society co-organized the “Industry Day 2023”, the annual career fair for the 11th consecutive time on 22nd September 2023 at the Faculty of Science premises, providing a common platform for representatives from private sector industries to meet with Science Faculty students and recent graduates seeking internship and employment opportunities in a variety of fields. The event was sponsored by 14 companies.

[Source: <https://www.pdn.ac.lk/all-news/>]

Obituaries

Mr. O. C. Jayawardane (Charlie Jayawardane)



Charlie Jayawardena, who played the role of Sinhabahu in the first production (1961) of the play passed away on November 17th, 2023.

Charlie Jayawardena graduated from Peradeniya in 1961 with an honours degree in Sinhala. He started teaching, and a few years later joined the CCS (Ceylon Civil Service). He was a distinguished officer in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service and served as the Secretary of the Ministry of Posts. He was known as O. C. Jayawardane among his colleagues in the Administrative Service.

Charlie Jayawardena, a former student of Dharmashoka College, Ambalangoda, is the younger brother of veteran film actor Dommy Jayawardena. Apart from the role of Sinhabahu in the play, he also acted in Prof. Sarachchandra's own play Vessantara. Charlie Jayawardena, who played the role of Yuvaraju in the post-Sinhabahu production, acted in many dramas like Kalagola, Sri Wickrama etc. He passed away at the age of eighty-two.

Guidelines for topics and content of material/creations to be published under the banner, Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – GTA and Suburbs

1. *These guidelines have been developed to provide opportunity for alumni members and the families to contribute with their creativity and knowledge to the publications of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – GTA & Suburbs whilst ensuring credibility of the association.*
2. *Types of publications may include, but not be restricted to, the Newsletter, event magazines, magazines on special topics or general topics, arts, collections, scientific journals, photos and video publications, contest results, informative documents, interviews etc.*
3. *The decision to publish or not will be determined by the Association's editorial board (President, Secretary, Past President & 02 Communication Leads of BOM) and their decision will be final. If needed, the Association may appoint a specialized editorial board depending on the theme/subject matter.*
4. *The material can be in the form of write-up, poem, quiz, cartoons, photographs, pictorials, or any other similar material, but should not be excessive in length, size etc. It is desirable to have themes associated with the University of Peradeniya or higher education, but this condition does not restrict materials of any other relevant topics. Time to time the Association may invite contributions to suggested themes/topics.*
5. *The articles can be written in English, Sinhalese, or Tamil.*
6. *The material should not promote/support any political or religious views/activities OR any social activity that can directly or indirectly lead to engagement, promotion, or participation of any political or religious activity or incite friction or violence.*
7. *As far as possible the material should be original and it is the responsibility of the author to retain evidence pertaining to any reference, quotations etc. made in the material. The author also undertakes to produce such material if requested by the editorial board.*
8. *The material should not be self-promoting or directly/indirectly, discrediting/disrespecting any individual/s living or dead or promoting hate behaviour, violence etc.*
9. *Once received, the Association retains the right to use the material for promotion of the Association or its activities.*
10. *Whilst the Association will make every effort to publish all the material conforming to the above terms, due to exceptional reasons, including decisions of the editorial board etc., some material may not be published in the alumni publications. Any such material will be returned to the author as soon as practical.*
11. *Any other governance rules issued time to time by the Association will supersede content of this document.*

These guidelines are not intended to restrict creativity, but have been developed in the spirit of transparent working principles of the Association. We therefore request your cooperation in adhering to them in the right 'Peradeniya Spirit'.

The Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – GTA & Suburbs

Version 1: 10 July 2020

Summary of Objectives of the Association
(Pursuant to ARTICLE THREE of the Constitution)

- MOBILIZE & DRIVE ALUMNI
- SUPPORT & PROMOTE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
- PROVIDE SERVICES AND BENEFITS
- SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS
- SUPPORT PERADENIYA ALUMNI NEWCOMERS TO CANADA
- RECOGNIZE ACHIEVEMENTS
- COMMUNICATE & INTERACT
- CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA
- The Association shall not engage or promote or participate in any political or religious activities OR any social activity that can directly or indirectly lead to engagement, promotion, or participation of any political or religious activity and/or in conflict with the above objectives. Any exception will be evaluated by the Board of Management based on merits. However, this principle does not aim at restricting any individual choices.