



NEWS BULLETIN

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

December 2018

Faculty of Arts, Main Library,
Senate and Akbar Hall



News Bulletin

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

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News Bulletin Contacts:

Ravi Jayasinghe (416.748.2209 | drvki2004@hotmail.com); Priyantha Kulasekara (519.824.5516 | pbk3000@yahoo.co.uk); Lilika Molligoda (647.947.8717 | lilikamolligoda@gmail.com)

Message from the Board of Management

Following the heavy workload of 'Back to Hantana – 2018' in April, we had two lighter events during last six months.

We were not at our 'Usual' at the Inter University Alumni Cricket Tournament in July and had to exit the tournament early. However, we had the spirited company of usual crowd cheering at our team in the ground. In late August, we organized an outdoor movie night and family evening. We had limited participation, but attendees enjoyed the unique evening.

Ongoing effort to enhance membership is continuing. The least we expect from our fellow alumni is to join the association formally to make it a strong entity for the benefit of all. We encourage everyone to support our efforts towards growth of the association.

Though some ground work has been done to ascertain feasibility of an engineering networking event as well as resume Town Hall meetings, clashing with other events limited our progress. We have developed initial plans for 2019 activities, which will include the AGM in 4th quarter.

We thank everyone for the support in 2018.

Complements of the season and best wishes for 2019!



Summer Event – Outdoor Movie Night and Family Evening

Following the success of Camp Fire in 2017 and encouraging feedback received, we looked for another unique event for 2018. Idea was to bring alumni families together in a different setting in a summer evening filled with entertainment - outdoor movie night and family get-together.



We selected the same remote location in Erin as venue for the evening. If you saw high grass in the location a week before the event, nobody would have thought that we could ever host any event on the ground.

Thanks to the hardworking team, all preparations were done in time and the arena was set for the night.



The outdoor Volleyball game whilst waiting to see the movie captured everyone's attention and gave us better ideas for entertainment.

More than the movie 'We Bought a Zoo', being in your place in a way you like to sit or lie down with no roof above, with people who you want to be around, and watching it on a screen that was just erected, were all parts of a really unique experience.

Whilst kids and mostly ladies enjoyed the movie in this atmosphere, majority of the rest enjoyed a unique 'outdoor pub life' at the periphery of arena.

Up until the end, little creatures called 'yellow jacket' laying low on ground in their habitats allowed us to enjoy the evening, but their gate-crashing towards the end prompted us to abandon the usual sing song. However, the real camaraderie was evident in how each other helped and the bravery shown by parents and kids.



Before retiring for the day, breaking up loaves of bread with bare hands and eating them in groups with sprat and tomato curry reminded us of old days and taste.



We had less than anticipated number of participants and hope to make the **3rd Saturday of every August** our day for summer outdoor event.

Hope everyone will note down the day in your schedules.

Inter University Alumni Cricket Tournament and Family Get-together



This year's event was successfully organized by the Sri Jayawardhanapura Alumni Association – Canada at Batsman Park Cricket Ground, Brampton on Saturday, July 07th 2018.

Teams representing Colombo, Kelaniya, Ruhuna, Moratuwa Engineering, NDT, Sri Jayewardenepura and Peradeniya Alumni participated in the tournament, which also featured a ladies cricket match. Eventual winners were the team representing Sri Jayawardhanapura, who won it for the first time defeating Moratuwa Engineering team in the finals.



The event started with a somber mood due to sudden illness of one of the pioneering organizers and sitting secretary of the Colombo University Alumni Association. He passed away a few weeks later. We script here our appreciation and acknowledgement of his contribution to the progression of Inter-University Alumni Cricket Tournament and Family Get-together.

Hantana Night – 2018

hosted by the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – Ottawa Chapter

For the 6th successive year, Ottawa Chapter organized '**Hantana Night – 2018**' on Saturday, October 13th 2018.

The participants, including children, performed a variety of items consisting of singing, dancing and short drama acts. Using characters for 'Kolama' (folk operetta) and 'Berakaraya' (street drummer) featuring in our traditional folk theatre with the help of invited guest Professor Mangala Senanayake of the University of Performing Arts captured the audience and provided a novel entertainment never experienced in Canada.

Stage decoration with the creation of famous '**Gajasingha Palama**' (if you recall – the small bridge next to playgrounds in Galaha Road) and familiar posters of student activists provided a nostalgic atmosphere to the event. There were well-captured '**Kurutu Gee**' in the souvenir distributed.



In spite of limited resources, the Ottawa Chapter team showed what people can do with a big heart – True Peradeniya spirit!

Membership Drive

Appeal to spend 3 minutes of your time

Please Spend
3 Minutes!

Let us show
Peradeniya spirit!

Please enter:

<http://www.peradeniyalumnihta.com/Joinus.html>

and

**fill the membership form in
3 minutes!**

1 As we know there are over **1500 estimated Peradeniya graduates in GTA & suburbs**. As in the case of every alumnus of Sri Lankan Universities living in Sri Lanka or away there is notable ignorance from many to join the alumni associations. This is sometimes unexplainable considering the value we got out of the university.

2 We believe joining the association is one big way we can collectively contribute to the University and society devoid of any biases and it is a moral obligation and way of showing gratitude.

3 Having sizable numbers help us in many ways including financially. The successive management committees who worked voluntarily and tirelessly with your help have built the Alumni Association everyone can be proud of.

And We therefore appeal to you (if you have not done already) to enroll and support.

Please enter:

<http://www.peradeniyalumnihta.com/Joinus.html> and **fill the membership form in 3 minutes!**

You can get others to do as well. We will also call you to help complete enrollment.

University News

STATE OF THE ART RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION CENTRE FOR WATER TECHNOLOGY



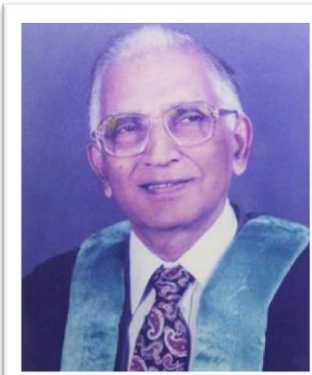
Construction of a state-of-the-art China-Sri Lanka Joint Research and Demonstration Centre for Water Technology commenced in September 2018 at the University of Peradeniya premises.

The Rs.28.3 billion project is carried out with a Chinese grant of Rs.1.95 billion and an Rs.880 million contribution from the Government of Sri Lanka. This is supposed to be the largest drinking water laboratory in South Asia.

The laboratory's focus will be to find solutions to the chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDU) and develop solutions to the lack of clean drinking water in the country.

The University of Peradeniya, Chinese Academy of Sciences and the City Planning and Water Supply Ministry are partners of the project, which includes a 5,000 square-metre building with advanced technology.

The project is expected to be completed by May 2020.



Tribute to late Prof. T Jogaratnam, Eminent Economist

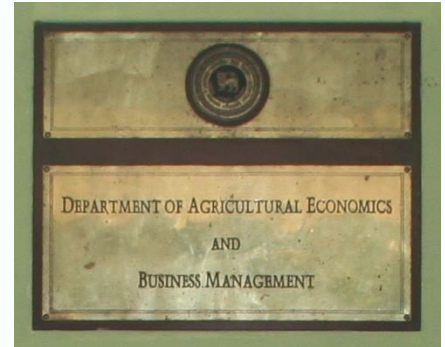
Professor T. Jogaratnam (Joga) aged 87 years, passed away on 18th September, 2018. Joga is regarded as the founder of Agricultural Economics in Sri Lanka and he became the 1st Professor of Agricultural Economics and the Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Farm Management of the University of Ceylon. He had a distinguished career as the dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and the director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

Early Life and Education

Joga was born in 1931 in Navaly in Jaffna, had early education at St Anthony's College in Kayts, Jaffna Central College, and at Royal College, Colombo. He entered the University of Ceylon in 1950 and obtained B.A. (Hons.) in Economics. He joined the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Science in 1953 as an Assistant Lecturer of the then University of Ceylon. He earned MSc Agricultural Economics from the University of Toronto and PhD in Agricultural Development from Cornell University.

Teacher and Researcher

Higher education in agriculture started in the University at the same year that the country gained independence. However, research in agriculture was not a priority at that time. By recognizing the importance of social sciences in agriculture, Joga invited eminent scholars' viz. Professor T.T. Poleman, Professor R. Schickele and Dr. A.T. Mosher, to introduce and broaden the research horizons of the Faculty.



His research activities included a wide range of agricultural development issues such as food and nutrition policy, land settlement, production economics, farm management, and resource and environmental economics. He wrote numerous monographs and popular articles related to agricultural economics.

Prof. Joga was a role model in teaching and research. He developed Agricultural Economics to meet the requirements for BSc curriculum in Agriculture. Over the years through teaching, research and lobbying, he succeeded in convincing the importance of the role of Economics in agricultural development in the country.

He improved Agricultural Economics to a highly recognized academic subject and research area, and stressed its relevance as a policy formulation and decision making tool in agricultural development in Sri Lanka. During his five decades of university service, he passionately committed to share his wide knowledge with fellow students and stimulated their thinking. His pleasing qualities, deep subject knowledge, and excellent command of English were assets to the university system. He was greatly admired by the undergraduate and post-graduate students, mainly due to his exemplary manner in which he delivered the lectures and his arguments on real world experiences.

Service to Community

He contributed immensely to develop the Faculty of Agriculture and the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture to the current status. He served as the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and became the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture in during 1978-1985.

As the Director of the USAID funded Agricultural Education Development Project, he was able to obtain foreign training for 38 academic staff members of the Faculty.

We Remember

Professor Jogaratnam willingly extended his services to national development activities. He was a pioneer in conducting benchmark surveys of major irrigation schemes. He served in many committees and governing bodies of ministries, government departments and non-governmental organizations in Sri Lanka. He closely interacted with the World Bank, FAO, ILO and ESCAP. Prof Jogaratnam's services have been recognized by the Eastern University of Sri Lanka and University of Ruhuna, and conferred on him D.Sc. degrees.

We salute Joga for his worthy life to the Sri Lankan academia and the Sri Lankan nation as a whole.



Tribute to late Prof. Jayadeva Thilakasiri – Sanskrit Scholar

Emeritus Professor of Sanskrit of the University of Peradeniya **Jayadeva Thilakasiri** passed away recently at the age of 97 years.

He served in the Department of classical languages from 1968 to 1982, having obtained BA in Sanskrit and later a PhD from University of London, UK.

Education

After studying Sanskrit and Pali at Mahinda College Galle, late Professor Thilakasiri entered the University and in 1943 passed out with a first class honors in Sanskrit as a member of the first batch of then University of Ceylon.

He then joined the University as an assistant lecturer.

Awards

Prof Thilakasiri has received the President's Award, Kala Keerthi (Artist of Eminence) and the Sahitya Rathna Award (Literary Excellence) in October 2004. He was a visiting lecturer at the University of Kelaniya and a recipient of grants from Rockefeller Foundation, USA.

He was the President of the German Dharmadutha Society for consecutive 05 years.

Researcher and Educator

Prof. Thilakasiri was considered as one of the foremost 'Indologists' in Sri Lanka.

Well respected Sri Lankan scholar whose research interests revolved around on Sanskrit Drama, Puppetry, Handcrafts, Scientific Literature on Sanskrit, Vedic Literature and Literary criticism and well acknowledged in the country and elsewhere.

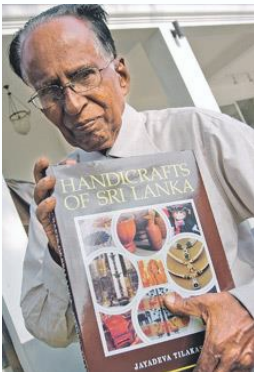
He has published several articles related to those interests and several books at different times during his career. He has been credited for 85 publications in four different languages and nearly 500 library holdings.

His work is included in the prescribed reading for the University students on Sanskrit, Indian History, Indian Philosophy, Fine Arts and Sinhalese literature.



Felicitations

Prof. Thilakasiri was felicitated by the department of classical languages of the University of Peradeniya in 2017 and many staff members and students were present on the day.



Book Publications

1. Kālidāsa's imagery and the theory of poetics, New Delhi: Navrang, 1988; 2. The puppet theatre of Asia, Colombo: Dept. of Cultural Affairs. 1968; 3. Puppetry in Ceylon, Arts of Ceylon Series: 1. Colombo: Dept. of Cultural Affairs. 1961; 4. A bibliography of the handicrafts of Sri Lanka, Colombo: National Crafts Council, Ministry of Rural Industrial Development. 1988; 5. Handicrafts of Sri Lanka, Moratuwa: Srimati Tilakasiri. 1994; Asian shadow and puppet theatre, Colombo: Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Sri Lanka. 2006; 6. The Asian shadow play, Ratmalana: Sarvodaya Vishva Lekha. 1999; 7. Samskr̥ta nāṭya sahityaya. Samskr̥ta Sahitya Vamśaya Series, kaṇḍaya - 3. Colombo: Lakehouse. 1971; 8. Vaidika sahityaya. Samskr̥ta Sahitya Vamśaya Series, kaṇḍaya - 1. Colombo: Lakehouse 1967; 9. The Indian Vidusaka and the comic characters of the Asian shadow play, Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian Society for Asian Studies. 1969; 10. Abhinavagupta - the literary critic and commentator (an assessment). Poona. 1967.

We pay tribute to a truly great son of Sri Lanka.

Up Next – Coming soon....

Town Hall Meeting - January 2019
Markham/Scarborough/Ajax/Whitby

Town Hall Meetings

- One of our key engagement activities was to meet the alumni where they live.
- We have held several successful Town Hall meeting in the last 4 years.
- We hope to resume them in a new format starting from Markham/Scarborough/Ajax/Whitby in January 2019.

Fund Raising Event

2 Fund Raising Event

- Most alumni activities you were able to enjoy so far has been managed with the support of the members, well-wishers, Commercial advertisers and the committee members of present and past.
- Now we have advanced the association to current level, it is important to build up a fund to undertake future activities including supporting academic advancement of the University.
- We hope to reach out to you and the public **with a novel fund raising initiative** in the near future.
- **Await further details in January 2019.**

Summary of our Objectives

- Renewing university ties and foster networking representing Peradeniya University and working collaboratively with other Peradeniya alumni chapters, promoting mutually beneficial networking with other Sri Lankan and Canadian university alumni.
- 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, collaborating with other similar organizations
- Recognizing and felicitating outstanding achievements of Peradeniya alumni members and promoting Sri Lankan culture.
- 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 committee based on merits. However, this principle does not aim at restricting individual choices.