



# News Bulletin

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

Message from the working  
committee –

**Back to Hantana - 2016**

- General Meeting Highlights - BoM  
and Committees - Alumni Website -  
University News - Tribute to a Pioneer  
- Obituaries - We are the Proud  
Peradeniya Alumni in the GTA and  
Suburbs - What is Coming Next



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

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2016

## General Meeting – 2015



New Board of Management

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The general meeting 2015 was held successfully on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Madona Secondary School in North York, Toronto ON.

The main focus of the GM was to consolidate the work done so far and strengthen the governance of the Association thro' a formal constitution. The agenda covered a review of activities since last general meeting in October 2012, approving the Constitution, appointing the Board of Management and discussion on the general work plan for the coming term.

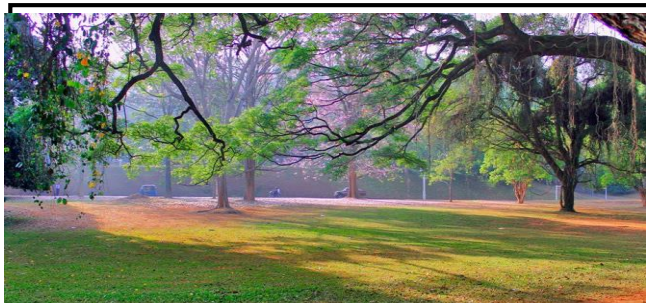
Since October 2012, the past working committee with the help of our members have focused on expanding engagement and establishing the Peradeniya Brand within and outside the Alumni. It was significant to note the respect and the recognition 'Peradeniya Work' has received from the society at large. It is heartening to observe, the high standards thrived for, innovative approach taken and the collective discipline adopted by us in every endeavour taking roots in the society.

We continued with our stated non partisan principles on several diverse areas such as religion, ethnicity, gender etc keeping in line with true Peradeniya Traditions.

As we emphasized at the General Meeting, having passed the challenging building phase we are now entering the consolidating and expansion phase of the alumni association. You will see in the next 18-24 months different activities coming your way enabling you to be part of the next phase.

At this stage, we want to thank all the Alumni Members who helped us to successfully complete the building phase. We are very proud that the effort has begun to bear fruits. We know we can continue to count on your support and active participation in our future events.

**We also want to specially acknowledge and thank the outgoing working committee members for their tireless contributions in the last three years.**



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

## Wish you all the Best for 2016!

Please get ready for

**'Back to Hantana – 2016'**

Saturday, 02 April 2016

## General Meeting Highlights



### Board of Management

President: Dhammika Premaratna (Science)  
 Vice Presidents: Veera Vijendra (Engineering), Chamila Rajapakse (Science)  
 Secretary: Pubudu Edirisinghe (Engineering)  
 Assistant Secretary: Upul Herath (Engineering)  
 Treasurer: Medil Gamage (Engineering)  
 Editors: Samanthika Ekanayake (Agriculture), Jayalath Samarakkody (Science)

#### Board of Management:

Padminie Bandara (Arts), Ruchira Dahanayake (Agriculture), Ravi Jayasinghe (Agriculture), Kapila Soyza (Agriculture), Asoka Kahandawela (Agriculture), Kamal Munasinghe (Engineering), Nalaka Jayamaha (Engineering), Chitra Perera (Engineering), Kamal Premarathne (Engineering), Ranjith Perera (Engineering), Nimal Liyanage (Science), Priyantha Kulasekara (Science)

## Constitution Highlights

### **Name:**

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

### **Operation:**

To minimize legal complications and risks, proposed to operate it as constitutional Association under Ontario legal system

### **Membership Types:**

Full Member (FM), Associate Member (AM) and Life Member (LM)

### **Membership Fee:**

FM – \$20/Year, AM – \$10/Year, LM - \$200 (Onetime fee) - (Determined considering annual operating cost)

### **Board of Management:**

Total 21 members  
 09 designated Executives: President, Past President, 02 VPs, 01 Secretary, 01 Assistant Secretary, 01 Treasurer and 02 Editors; and  
 12 designated Officers  
 (07 members to BoM nominated by default from the outgoing committee)

### **Term of Office:**

Recommended to be 02 years from the date of General Meeting

### **Standing Committees**

Executive, Governance & Succession, Finance & Legal  
 (Appointment of any other committees as required with the mandate)

### **Fiscal Year:**

From 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31 December

### **Annual Accounts:**

Appointment of 02 Full Members for the purpose of verification of annual accounts

(Please refer to the Constitution for details)



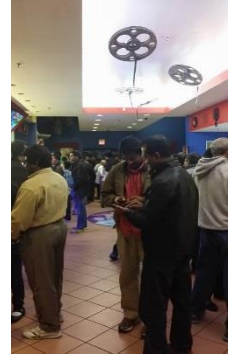


## Past Events - Sakkarang

Alumni Association of the Peradeniya - GTA and Suburbs presented "Sakkarang" (A Sacrifice), a movie directed by Dr. Dhramasena Pathiraja. It was screened at the Albion Cinema in Toronto on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. A large number attended.

We tried a new approach. This was the first time a Sri Lankan movie was screened to the public outside the country before it was screened in Sri Lanka. We also conducted first opinion survey from a live audience using a survey form. The feedback was passed on to the Director.

We want to convey our thanks to the attendees, those provided feedback and our well-wishers.



## Website and Face Book Page

### Alumni Website

AAUP GTA+ Official Website is now available for you

Website brings a huge amount of information on AAUP GTA+, News, About the U of Peradeniya, Services we render to the members and newcomer Peradeniya Graduates to Canada, contacts for help, photo gallery, opportunity to write articles /scientific papers, news bulletin, online membership application form and much more.

Our Web Address:

**[www.peradeniyalumnigta.com](http://www.peradeniyalumnigta.com)**

Please visit the website regularly for the updates

[HOME](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[SERVICES](#)

[MEMBER AREA](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[GALLERY](#)

Home Page: University of Peradeniya, University of Peradeniya Alumni, other alumni, news and events

About Us: University Motto, Objectives, Board of management, Standing Committees

Services: new comer guide, job guide, family and children, emergency help and surveys and results

Member Area: submit an article, tributes and obituaries and awards/recognition

Contact us: key contacts, join us, member requirements, contact a member

Gallery: photos, news bulletins, magazines

Please note that the website will continue to evolve as we progress with activities.

### Facebook page

We are planning to create a Facebook page for the AAUP GTA and Suburbs, especially to update the membership on the Alumni activities and special occasions.

If you are a Facebook lover, please accept the invitation to join the group, which we are planning to send you soon.

**NEXT BIG  
EVENT**

It is the time of the year again!  
Time for your Favourite Program.

To add a few more moments  
to our precious memories ....  
we can carry for the rest of our lives, join us at

## **Back to Hantana - 2016**

with a very special performer .....  
Distinguished Peradeniya Alumnus and  
prominent Sri Lankan Artist

**Dr. Jayalath Manorathna**

It will be your day with Dr. Manorathna

With eloquent language  
brilliant wit  
and powerful vocals  
together with  
Peradeniya Alumni talents

everyone will be able to  
join the party

## **Don't miss the day !!**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 (Saturday)**

**6.30 pm to 11.30 pm**

**Korean Canadian Cultural Center  
(1133 Leslie Street, North York)**

(More details on the event including  
tickets prices will be available soon)

# **Back to Hantana 2016**

Theme:  
Evolution of Songs in Sri Lanka



### **Dr. Jayalath Manorathna**

B.A. (University of Peradeniya), M.A. (University of Jayawardanapura), Ph.D. (University of Jayawardanapura),  
Honorary D.Litt. (University of Peradeniya)

Over 40 years as a Sri Lankan Drama Producer, Director, Actor, Script writer, Novelist and Visiting Lecturer University of Sri Jayawardanapura and University of Performing Arts. Dr. Manorathna has produced over ten stage dramas, was an actor for more than 60 stage dramas, over 30 tele dramas, over 25 films and authored over 15 books.

Drama Awards:	Five (5) time best drama actor, three (3) time best drama script writer, one (1) time best drama director;
Tele-Drama Awards:	Two (2) time best actor and one (1) time best script writer;
Cinema Awards:	Three (3) time best supporting actor; and
Literature Awards:	Three (3) time literature award winner.

### **Prof. R.L. Wijeyeweera** **Appointed - Deputy Vice Chancellor** **University of Peradeniya**

Prof. R.L. Wijeyeweera of the Dept. of Community Dental Health, Faculty of Dental Sciences assumed duties as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on 01st December, 2015.

The tenure of Prof. Shantha K. Hennayake as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor had lapsed on 30th November, 2015. A simple ceremony was held at the Senate Room to welcome Prof. Wijeyeweera and to wish Prof. Hennayake, good bye.



### **Mr. Thilak Dharmaratne** **The First Vice Chancellor** **Ocean University**

Mr. Thilak Dharmaratne has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the Ocean University.

Mr. Dharmaratne is a Graduate in Geology of the University of Peradeniya. He holds a Post-graduate Degree in Management from Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administrative (SLIDA). He was attached to NARA for five years and subsequently appointed (year 2010) to the post of Director General, Gem & Jewelry Research Institute.

He is the only scholar in Sri Lanka having both Post-graduate Degrees in Oceanography and Geology.



### **Prof. V.S. Weerasinghe** **Appointed – Dean of Medical Faculty** **University of Peradeniya**

Professor V.S. Weerasinghe was elected as the New Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya. Welcome Ceremony held today (14th September 2015) at the Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine.



### **Dr. Jayalath Manorathna** **The Best Actor**

Dr. Jayalath Manorathna won the Best Actor's award for his main role in Sri Lankan Movie "Soovisi Viwarana" at the International Bioscope Global Film Festival held in Delhi. The movie was directed by Sarath Dharmasiri and earlier won the award for the best Director at the SAARC film festival conducted in 2014.





## **Prof. S. Mahalingam**

Well-known and highly regarded emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Peradeniya, Professor S. Mahalingam passed away on November 3, 2015 at the private North Central Hospital in Jaffna.

Mahalingam was born on 16 January 1926 in Alaveddy in northern Sri Lanka. His parents were Selvadurai and Nagamma Sellasaraswathy. He received his primary secondary education at Maxwell School and Victoria College in Malaya due to the reason that his family moved to Malaya.

He returned to Sri Lanka at age 20 and joined Ceylon Technical College in 1946, graduating with a first class B.Sc. Eng. degree. Mahalingam joined the Engineering Faculty of the University of Ceylon (later University of Ceylon, Peradeniya, University of Peradeniya) when it was established in 1950.

He received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Sheffield in 1956. Professor Mahalingam was awarded a doctorate (DSc) from the University of London.

Mahalingam received the Vidya Jyothi honour in 2005.

Although there were many attractive opportunities overseas for Professor Mahalingam he continued to be attached to the Engineering Faculty of the University of Peradeniya imparting valuable knowledge to young undergraduates. He became a world-known expert on "Vibration of systems", in particular on aircraft engines.

Professor Mahalingam was highly respected and much loved by all his students for his vision and dedication. The country as whole owes him a debt of gratitude for his services in the development of engineers, some of whom have risen to the highest echelons all over the globe.



## **Prof. B.K. Basnayake**

Professor B.K. Basnayake, Emeritus Professor of Geography, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya passed away in November, 2015.

Prof. Basnayake was also the Warden of the Marcus Fernando Hall during the 70's.

Professor Basnayake has many scientific papers written on irrigation and drought management in Sri Lanka. He is one of the main contributors to the report, "Natural resources of Sri Lanka, Conditions and Trends" published in 1991, a report prepared for the Natural resources, Energy and Science Authority of Sri Lanka, "Topography and Solar Radiation in Barbados".

2012



**Be a Proud  
Member  
of the  
AAUP  
(GTA & Suburbs)**

During the past 4 years, we, the Alumni Association of Peradeniya of the GTA area and Suburbs (AAUP GTA & Suburbs), continue to engaging with our Alumni members and community in many areas including but not limited to Arts and Cultures, Entertainment, Sports, New Comer Induction etc.

2013



We established collective leadership, openness, respect for diversity, innovativeness and perseverance to complete what is undertaken among our members and managed to set new frontiers in many ways within the community around us.



None of the above would have been possible without your support, participation and inputs!



We need to sustain our efforts to serve you and the community



2014



We therefore request you to obtain the membership. If you have not taken the member ship of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya – Greater Toronto Area & Suburbs.

2015



Please go to the following website to complete the membership application:

<http://peradeniyalumnigta.com/Joinus.html>

# What's Coming Next...

**It's Here Again!**

## 'Back to Hantana 2016'

With  
**Dr. Jayalath Manorathna**

On  
April 2, 2016  
(6.30 pm to 11.30 pm)

At  
**Korean Canadian Cultural Centre**  
(1133 Leslie Street, North York)

This year's theme:  
**Evolution of the Songs in Sri Lanka**

Peradeniya Alumni and their families are  
welcome to take-part in the event. If  
interested please contact ASAP:

Dhammika Premarathna (647.924.7592)  
Pubudu Edirisighe (289.971.4629)

Or email to:  
secretary@peradeniyalumnigta.com

(There will be  
light dinner, soft drinks  
and  
the Usual'.....)

**Join and Enrich Peradeniya Spirit!**

## Next Local Meeting

Of the Alumni Members

**March 2016**

For our members

In the areas of

**Burlington**

**Cambridge**

**Guelph**

**Kitchener**

Await for more details soon.

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(Saturday April 2, 2016)  
**Back to Hantana**

Starts at 6.30 PM



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