

Special Edition
Annual General Meeting,
Saturday October 21, 2017

NEWS Bulletin

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

October 2017

Annual
General
Meeting
2017

Lamp Post Head



News Bulletin

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

ISSUE 3 – OCTOBER 2017

Message from the Board of Management

AGM – 2017 (October 21st, 2017)

Two years have passed since the last AGM in 2015. We have already communicated the next AGM on **Saturday 21st October 2017 in Etobicoke.**

On this day whilst we will review our progress, we will select the new Board of Management to advance the Association for the next 02 years. It is encouraging to see several new faces showing the interest to serve in the BoM. Please diarise the date and turn up early.

Organizing the first ever outdoor Camp Fire held in August was a new experience to us. Turning up in numbers to enjoy a memorable evening made our effort well worth.

We wonder how many of you have visited the University during your home visits. We believe it is a must for all the alumni to pay a visit whenever you are in Sri Lanka. The physical environment has been changing due to several new buildings being built but the education standards and the student culture is something we all have to keep watching closely.

We strongly believe as independent bodies the Alumni Associations need to take more responsibilities and proactively seek more formal ways to contribute to shape the University life in Toto. We believe that is one big part of the Peradeniya spirit.

We hope to see everyone on Saturday 21st in Etobicoke at the AGM.

Let us show Peradeniya spirit!



Outgoing Board of Management (2015 – 2017)
AAUP (GTA & Suburbs)

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News Bulletin Contacts:

Ravi Jayasinghe (416.748.2209 |
drvkj2004@hotmail.com); Kamal Premaratne
(647.667.7693 | kamal.priyantha@gmail.com);
Samanthika Ekanayake (416.241.6869 |
samanthikaems@yahoo.com); Jayalath Samarakkody
(647.293.8793 | jayalaths@hotmail.com)

Association Needs your
✚ Presence
✚ Valuable Ideas, and
✚ Encouragement

at ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2017

AAUP (GTA&SUBURBS)
on

Saturday 21st October (from 5 to 7.30 pm)
Mother Cabrini Catholic School
720 Renforth Drive
Etobicoke, ON

Initiation

May 2012 – Initial get-together and formation of an ad hoc committee

June- Sept 2012 – Engagement with several Alumni and groups, formation of Working Committee, Developing Guiding Principles and draft constitution

How the Association Evolved

2012 GM and After

September 2012 – First General membership meeting, Formalizing Interim Committee, Presenting draft Constitution, Getting mandate to proceed, Development of contact list

October 2012- March 2013 – Engagement with Alumni, Alumni Association main body and the University

March 2013 – Launch of Alumni News Bulletin

April 2013 – 1st Alumni get-together - 'Back to Hantana 2013'

May - November 2013 – Social and Alumni Engagement, Constitution Development

December 2013 – First Town Hall meeting in Guelph that paved the way for several that followed in key cities in GTA

April/May 2014 – Hosting 06 shows of 'Maname and Sinhabahu', two of the epic Sri Lankan stage dramas in Toronto and Ottawa

June 2014 – August 2015 – Alumni Engagement Town Hall Meetings

September 2015 – New Movie 'Sakkarang' by Dr, Pathiraja

October 2015 – Launch of Website

2015 AGM and After

October 2015 – Annual General Meeting – Approval of the Constitution and selection of the Board of Management,

November 2015 – Launch of Face Book page

December 2015 to March 2016 – Town Hall Meetings

January 2016 – Association featured in main body website

April 2016 – Back to Hantana 2016

May 2016 – February 2017 – Town Hall Meetings

March – May 2017 – 'Muditha' - Children for Children Art Workshops and Exhibition

August 2017 – Camp Fire

Tribute

Building an alumni association in a totally foreign country was a challenging task. The baby steps we took with patience and mutual respect seem to have moved us to the current level.

We pay a great tribute to all those dedicated volunteers and the family members who contributed lavishly to build the association for Peradeniya alumni

The Association played an active role in engaging with the other Alumni Groups and contributed to shape the Annual Inter Alumni Cricket Tournament & Family Get together. The members also attended the Annual BBQ organised by the 'Peracanadians' in July every year.

Board of Management (2015 – 2017)

President: Dhammika Premaratna (Science)

Vice Presidents: Veera Vijenthira (Engineering), Chamila Rajapakse (Science)

Secretary: Pubudu Edirisinghe (Engineering)

Assistant Secretary: Upul Herath (Engineering)

Treasurer: Medil Gamage (Engineering)

Editors: Samanthika Ekanayake (Agriculture), Jayalath Samarakkody (Science)

Committee:

Padmini Bandara (Arts), Ruchira Dahanayake (Agriculture), Ravi Jayasinghe (Agriculture), Kapila Zoysa (Agriculture), Anil Sepala (Science), Kamal Munasinghe (Engineering), Nalaka Jayamaha (Engineering), Kamal Premaratne (Engineering), Ranjith Perera (Engineering), Nimal Liyanage (Science), Priyantha Kulasekera (Science).

**AGM
2017**

Annual General Meeting 2017

Everything is ready for the AGM - 2017

We have selected Etobicoke as the venue for the AGM to enable maximum participation.

Motivating everyone to attend a General Meeting is always a challenge but so far the responses are encouraging. All the arrangements are in place to hold a successful AGM.

As you may remember, the AGM is held every two years enabling the Board of Management (the committee) to carry out a decent work on behalf of the membership.

Keeping in line with our policy of transparency and inclusiveness we have been keeping in the loop through various means. Let us meet and greet, review our journey, appoint the new board and discuss further plans on Saturday.

It will be your chance to express your views, show the gratitude to old BoM and welcome the new BoM.

Saturday 21st October from 5 to 7.30 pm
At Mother Cabrini Catholic School
720 Renforth Drive
Etobicoke, ON
M9C 2N9

Please feel free to bring along any other Peradeniya alumni who may not have received our notifications.

Your early arrival will help us to start the meeting on time.

We have always thrived to start all the Peradeniya events very much on time. Let us keep that part of Peradeniya spirit.

University News



New Main Library building

Foundation Stone - Laying ceremony of the New Main Library building was held at the auspicious time, of 6.02 a.m. on Friday, 18th August, 2017 under the patronage of Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya who laid the 1st Stone accompanied by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. R.L. Wijeyeweera and the Deans of Faculties of Medicine - Prof. Vajira Weerasinghe, Agriculture - Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara and the Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science - Prof. H.B.S. Ariyaratne. Mr. N.T.S.A. Senadheera, former Librarian, University of Peradeniya attended as a special guest at this historical event.



Prestigious Engineering Award for the Faculty of Engineering

On 20 July 2017, the project "Mitigation of Pollution at Kandy Lake and Mid-Canal, Sri Lanka" has been awarded the Prestigious Engineering Achievement Award (PEAA) by the Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES).

The project was collaboration between UOP's Faculty of Engineering and the Nanyang Environment and Water Research Institute (NEWRI, Singapore). Dr Shameen Jinadasa, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Civil Engineering was the project's Principal Investigator.

Camp Fire



The first ever **Camp Fire** organized by the Association for the members and the families was successfully concluded in August 19th, 2017 in a remote farm land in Erin.

Though the event started bit late due to slow arrival of the participants, it worked in our favor as we gained more night time to enjoy.

The location in a remote farm land in Erin was ideal for our purpose. The atmosphere in the foot of the slope of the farm land only surrounded by the high grass and distance tree lines perhaps looked far better than the surroundings of 'Wala'.

The approach foot path in the downhill lit by dim solar lights led to the square Camp Fire area. In four corners were the glowing white TPs (Native style tents) and the each arm of the square had well positioned citric torches and Peradeniya style lamps to complete the right ambient for the Fire and participants.

Though we did not anticipate the chilly weather provided bit more natural Peradeniya feeling. There were plenty of camp food and thirst quenchers to keep the energy. The intensity of the growing spirit continued to rise as the night grew and the tempo was unstoppable till we made a conscious count down after mid night to douse the 'Fire'. Kids too had a gala time though at times it was challenging to keep them restricted to the premises.

Those who were present experienced the true **Peradeniya spirit** and what it can do.



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Annual General Meeting

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(GTA and Suburbs)

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720 Renforth Drive
Etobicoke, ON M9C 2N9



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.